

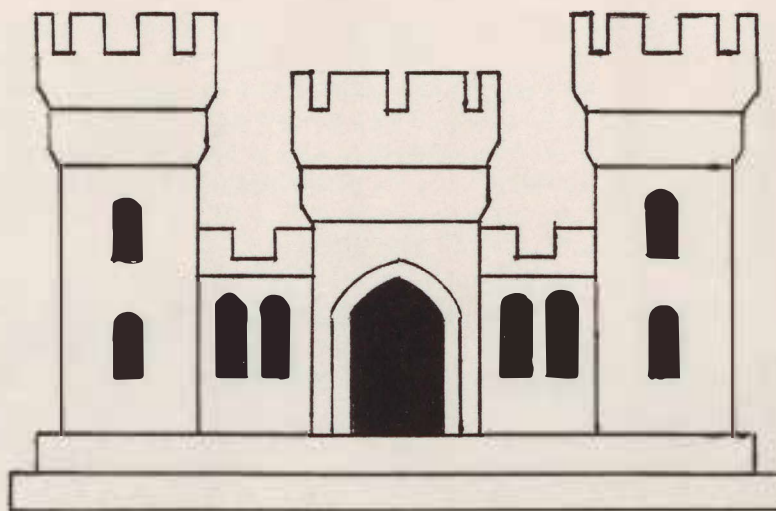
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HISTORY  
of the  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC  
BATTALION

APRIL 4, 1944 ----- NOVEMBER 20, 1945

WORLD WAR II

EUROPEAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS



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APPROVED BY  
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1953

PRINTED BY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special gratitude is extended to Russell Stradling who furnished me the microfilm of The History of the 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion contained in this publication. Mr Stradling was not a member of the 942nd but was with the Second Photo Technical Squadron also stationed in High Wycombe, England, and Virton, Belgium.

Special thanks to Floyd (Shum) B Jensen for his help in having the microfilm reproduced on paper and to Nina Druce for her typing skill in retyping the entire publication.

This publication has been collated by Robert des Granges and has been printed exclusively for 942nd comrades.

Published by  
Robert des Granges  
1989

Printing by

Alphagraphics  
San Diego, Cal.  
92127

*Will,  
to a very good army  
buddy and friend of many  
years.  
Hope you enjoy the book  
Bob des Granges*

TECHNICAL

HISTORY

of

942nd ENGR AVN TOPO BN

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## INTRODUCTION

As a prelude to a report of this kind, emphasis, must be placed on the fact that the organization and technique described herein were those adapted to our particular circumstances and must not be necessarily construed as representative for other units of this type.

In the original Air Force Troop Basis of 1943, three Topographic companies were set up for this Theater; two standard companies organized under T/O 5-447 were to be with the Tactical or Ninth Air force and a special reinforced company, the 952nd, was to be with the Strategic or Eighth Air Force.

In November of 1943, a new T/O & E 5-400 was approved for the Topographic Organizations. The above T/O was a cellular type which allowed great flexibility in selecting the organization necessary in each Theater. Also at this time, the Topographic Units mission was expanded to include Photo-library and photoprint work in addition to normal map and mosaic work for the Air Force Units. With the increase in the duties of the Topographic Units it was seen that the three companies would have to be reorganized to include photo-library and photo-print sections. However, the reorganization had to be done by utilizing no more than the number of personnel in the three original companies since the Troop Basis was fixed.

The study of the situation was made by the Engineer Section, USAAF in U.K. It was decided that each Air Force would need drafting and photo-mapping, lithographic, photo-library and Photo-print facilities, however, as long as the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces were in the U.K. and as long as there was good courier service between them, it would be more efficient to pool resources of the Topographic Units of the two Air Forces. However, it was recognized that the time might come when the courier system would not be satisfactory for such work, and that the battalion might have to split in two with half the facilities remaining with the Eighth Air Force and the other half going with the Ninth Air Force. For this reason there were two platoons for drafting, reproduction, photolibrary and Photo-printing. In addition to the regular mission of the Engineer Aviation Topographic units the units with the Ninth Air Force would also have map distribution duties. For this reason two map depot detachments, T/O & E 5-500, and one mess team, type No. 1, were set up in the battalion to operate the map distribution for the Ninth Air Force.

A survey of both the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces at this time indicated the majority of the work required would be for the Ninth Air Force. The above fact, together with the fact the majority of the topographic personnel were on the Ninth Air Force Troop Basis, caused a recommendation to be made that the Battalion be assigned to the Ninth Air Force.

In January, 1944, when plans were being made for the setting up of a Photographic Reconnaissance Command, in the Eighth Air Force, the Troop basis was changed and the proposed Topographic Battalion was put on the Eighth Air Force Troop Basis for inclusion in the proposed Photographic Reconnaissance Command rather than in the Ninth Air Force.

Our mission consisted essentially of compiling, drafting, and reproducing any aerial maps., charts and other printed matter required by various Eighth Air Force units. As both the prime and supplemental types of work multiplied, we became capable of satisfying the diverse needs of a greater number of units than had been initially intended. In this connection, the versatility of the organization was demonstrated in successfully completing a wide range of work for the Eighth Air Force, Ninth Air Force, First Allied Airborne Army, Air Ministry, Troop Carrier Command, Air Transport Command, Office of Chief Engineer, The Twelfth Army Group. Minor demands of SHAEF and various Statistical analysis organizations were also met.

It is obvious that, when attached to a Photo Reconnaissance Wing, the efficiency of a unit such as ours is somewhat increased. By far the greatest factors in this regard is "Time". Our two units mutually complement each other and the availability to us of the Wing's Film Library, Plotting and Indexing Sections, Photo Interpretation Sections and, to limited extent, its photo laboratory and source of latest aerial photo coverage eliminated many sources of delay which might otherwise be encountered.

In order to obtain the proper personnel for the sub-units of the new battalion, a study was made to see what cells could be filled with personnel of the 952nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Company and the remaining cells were then requested from the States. In line with the above request, the 950th and 959th Engineer Aviation Topographic Companies which had been destined for the Ninth Air Force were reorganized for the required cells and sent overseas as a special detachment. Due to an error, one reproduction platoon which was to be formed in the States was not included. This caused a shortage of reproduction personnel and caused the shifting of many draftsmen to reproduction when the Battalion was formed in April 1944.

The Battalion as set up in April was still not satisfactory since it contained one Reproduction platoon with small Harris Presses, and one platoon with the larger Webendorfer Presses, rather than two platoons with Webendorfer Presses as originally requested. Due to this fact, the battalion could not split satisfactorily since both the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces had need for the large presses. This was corrected late in the summer when the second large platoon was approved in place of the small platoon.

Another thing that was not satisfactory was the inclusion of the map depot detachments in this battalion. These detachments

were required with the Ninth Air Force. Under the original plan the inclusion of the map depot detachments in the Battalion would have been satisfactory.

*[The following text is extremely faint and mostly illegible. It appears to be a continuation of a report or memorandum.]*

... The primary purpose of the map depot detachments was to provide...  
... The original plan was to have a map depot detachment...  
... The inclusion of these detachments in the Battalion...  
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... The original plan was to have a map depot detachment...  
... The inclusion of these detachments in the Battalion...



## BATTALION ADMINISTRATION (S-1)

According to the T/O & E 5-400, W.D., 1 Nov 1943, the headquarters of this battalion was set up to include 12 enlisted men and five officers. These were one Lieut. Colonel, commanding; one Major, executive officer; two Captains, S-3 and S-4; and one 1st Lieut., S-1. The enlisted men consisted of one Master Sergeant, Sergeant major; two Tech Sergeants, one to be Personnel Sergeant and one Supply Sergeant; one Staff Sergeant to work in supply; two clerk typists; two general clerks; two stock clerks, an orderly and a basic. The stock clerks and supply NCO's were under the direct supervision of Bn S-4. One clerk typist was also used in Bn supply leaving two administrative NCO's and three clerks in Bn headquarters for the use of S-1. The orderly was used as a runner and one-man message center. The basic was of no use to headquarters and was used elsewhere in the battalion. The mission of headquarters, of course, was to handle the administration of the battalion; that is, business correspondence (see illustration #1), publishing of special orders and battalion memoranda, maintaining a complete file (Dewey Decimal System) of orders, memos, correspondence and directives of all higher echelons. A unit personnel section was set up in battalion headquarters consisting of a clerk from each company headquarters. All service records, classification cards and 201 files were kept in battalion headquarters, and each company clerk maintained the records of the men in his particular company. The administration was run as provided for in army regulations for separate battalions with one exception. Our next higher echelon cut special orders dealing with the placement of our personnel on temporary duty or detached service.

Because of the unit personnel system in battalion headquarters, which assured responsibility for the maintenance of all personnel record, there were not a great number of records left to be handled in the company orderly rooms. Besides the regular company business, they maintained their sick book duty roster and company punishment records. Files of company correspondence, certain distribution of higher directives as well as battalion memoranda were maintained. An officer was designated in each company to act as personnel officer. Except in Company B, which had a great amount of reproduction supplies, this same officer was in charge of company supply. Pay rolls were made up and certified in the battalion personnel section but the men were paid by each company. Whenever possible, administrative responsibility was detailed to the company level, except where personnel records were involved. Then it was handled in the battalion personnel section by the company clerks.

In summation, it was the duty of the administrative section of the battalion to keep all records of all individuals correct and up to date, to carry on the administrative correspondence of the battalion, and to administer to the men, all information as to personal affairs, allotments, allowances and status.

## BATTALION ADMINISTRATION (S-1) cont'd

When this battalion was organized, it was made up of personnel which formerly had been in three different separate topo companies; the 952nd, 959th, and 950th. The 952nd had been in England since 19 August 1942, the other two companies coming overseas 1 March 44, having been redesignated and reorganized as the Engr Avn Topo Det Sp No. 1. The records of the last named unit were in good shape, as exhaustive P & M inspections had to be successfully passed. For about one and a half years, the 952nd underwent no administrative inspections of a rigid nature, and consequently, their service records, classification records, and other personnel records were not in top shape. Work was started on them to correct and add entries that were missing. The first inspection of the Administrative Inspector from the Adjutant General's Dept. brought many discrepancies to light. The company clerks bent to their task and within a very few weeks brought every record up to date. This included making new pay books, making out new and adjusting old allotments, while carrying on the routine business of the battalion. The next administrative inspection was passed with flying colors. The personnel section received a letter of commendation from the 325th Photo Wing Recon Headquarters, our next higher echelon.

The system of monthly administrative inspections made by the Air Inspector's Office of the Wing helped in maintaining our records. Each inspection since the second one has brought very few discrepancies to light, mainly those of a routine nature, initials missing here and there, letting certain entries go in favor of more urgent work, etc.

The unit personnel system worked out very well. All important records and personnel work of the battalion was done under the direction of the S-1 Officer, and the company clerks were under his direct supervision. Much of the routine work was taken off his hands by the Sgt Major, while the classification work and reports were handled by the Personnel Sergeant. Each clerk had particularly designated duties. One was in complete charge of the files, posting the filing W.E. circulars, A.R.'s and other directives. Another clerk was charged with making out the pay rolls of all three companies, though later, when Company B was sent to the continent, the two clerks of the companies remaining made out the rolls for their respective companies. The remaining clerk typed correspondence and worked as assistant to the Personnel Sergeant.

The First Sergeants of the various companies were kept busy handling direct contacts with their men, holding formations, attending to the work details and generally assisting the company commander. Consequently the administrative work of the orderly room was left to a clerk typist in the rank of Tec 4. This clerk posted directives and maintained the files of the company, prepared the sick book made up the duty roster and did what correspondence and typing the company commander desired.

## BATTALION ADMINISTRATION (S-1) cont'd

A rigid pass system was maintained in the battalion. Special passes were typed up in the orderly rooms and submitted to the battalion Adjutant (S-1) for signature. A duty officer was on duty in the work area every evening from 1630 hours until curfew. This officer was responsible for giving out passes only to those men eligible that evening and checking their clothing and records carried upon the person. A report from the duty officer was rendered each succeeding morning, one to battalion headquarters and another to each company headquarters, listing names of delinquents and discrepancies.

The personnel, as provided by TO & E 5-400, has been found entirely satisfactory for handling the business of the various headquarters. The one exception is the basic provided in battalion headquarters. He is unnecessary. As regards to grades for administrative men, they are, in the opinion of S-1, too low. Company clerks have in all T/O's been authorized only a corporal's rating. The amount of work, responsibility, and time necessary to do their job adequately, particularly in a separate battalion, warrants a grade of Technician 4th grade. The work of company clerks, though not perhaps steadily difficult throughout any given month, comes in spurts, and they invariably work against deadlines and under pressure. With any amount of transferring of men, processing of records, handling of personal affairs, unit movements etc, their work is exacting and demands long strenuous hours. They and no one else can do it. Company clerks work harder, under greater pressure and with more responsibility than other men, technical or non-technical holding down a grade of corporal or Tec 5. For these reasons, a grade of Tec 4 is believed to be more in keeping.

This organization is topographic and has for its principal mission the preparation, reproduction, and distribution of maps, mosaics, approach and bomb charts, and related aids to the Air Force. The most necessary and critical specialties are therefore; draftsmen, photogrammetrists and lithographers, and particularly pressmen and photolithographers. We have been able to get enough draftsmen for our needs, training the required number of photogrammetrists from them. We never have been able, however, to get as many offset pressmen and photolithographers as we are authorized and whom we have sorely needed. The battalion has done outstanding reproduction work, through the heavy months of the offensive in Europe, always understaffed and overworked. There never have, apparently, been sufficient lithographers in the theatre to meet demands. It is suggested that more careful screening of inductees be made in the reception centers to make available to topographic units more men with civilian training and experience in lithography and offset printing, particularly pressmen, platemakers and cameramen.

Until recently when the War Department started the policy of sending infantry men, who had been hospitalized, to noncombatant

## BATTALION ADMINISTRATION (S-1) cont'd

units, the 942nd experienced much difficulty in obtaining sufficient basics or duty soldiers to fill our needs. The battalion has, on the average, been called upon to furnish a daily work detail to the station on which it was quartered. Insufficiently provided with duty soldiers, this has put a severe strain on the technical production of the battalion. Very often noncommissioned officers, corporals and Tec 5's have been called away from their technical work to provide manpower for housekeeping details. This is neither fair nor practical. At one time, we were forced to place all Tec 5's on the duty roster, drawing from their ranks constantly. With the inception of the policy of transferring men who are on limited assignment, the need for duty soldiers has been met.

There is little mechanical equipment necessary in the Adjutant's and Personnel section of a battalion. There is, however, a need for several efficient typewriters of the standard type. Portable typewriters have been found to be entirely inadequate for the neat typing required in a battalion or company headquarters, and are very difficult to use at any time. It has been impossible to get enough standard typewrites to supply all sections where they are needed. In fact, T/O & E 5-400 does not provide any typewriters for battalion headquarters, it being expected the various companies would supply the headquarters. This has been a grave mistake as the typewriters provided for the companies by T/O & E have been sufficient only for their own needs. Further than that, sufficient standards in efficient working order have not been available. The suggestion is made that subsequent T/O & E's provide a battalion headquarters with three standard typewriters for their own use.

The same difficulty has been experienced from time to time in getting particular directives and regulations pertinent to necessary reports. The battalion would get a message requesting a particular kind of report, referring to a certain directive, and either it would get no distribution on that directive, or it would come so late that it made getting out the report very difficult. Incomplete or tardy distribution seemed to be the rule, at least on this station, even though it was 8th Air Force Headquarters.

A great deal of trouble and misunderstanding arose out of the status of Detachment A, 942nd Engrs. Immediately upon activation of the battalion, Detachment A, consisting of 2 officers and 27 enlisted men, were placed on DS with the 9th Air Force for further attachment to the IX Engineer Command for rations, quarters, duty and administration. Inasmuch as the detachment was never relieved of assignment to this headquarters, higher administrative echelons constantly expected us to furnish them reports and data concerning this detachment. We kept none of their records and had no knowledge of them from month to

BATTALION ADMINISTRATION (S-1) cont'd

month. This caused a continual amount of trouble and dispute. This detachment staffed two separate map depots and were set up to handle large numbers of maps, going to and coming from various geographical localities. As they worked entirely for and under the jurisdiction of the 9th Air Force, they should have been transferred to that command. Then there would have been no question as to who had the responsibility of their administration.

Aside from the foregoing difficulties, the administration of this Battalion proceeded smoothly. The personnel setup is entirely adequate with the following exceptions:

- (1) Elimination of the basic in battalion headquarters as unnecessary.
- (2) A grade of Technician 4th Grade authorized for Company Clerks instead of the present one of corporal.

## OPERATIONS SECTION

It is the purpose of this report to dwell on the role of the Operations Section, however, because this section was concerned in all work done by the battalion, any description must necessarily include an overall picture of battalion functioning. The Operations Section is apart of battalion administration and operates primarily as a channel for incoming and outgoing work and as a coordination faster among all other branches of the battalion. To illustrate the position of Operations it becomes necessary to show the skeleton structure of the battalion.

- I. Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company
  - a. Battalion Administration (S-1)
  - b. Battalion Operations
  - c. Company Administration, Mess and Supply
  - d. Motor Transport
  
- II. Company "A"
  - a. Two Drafting Platoons
  - b. Mosaic Section
  - c. Current and Static Sorties
  - d. Map Library
  - e. Plotting and Tracing Section
  
- III. Company "B"
  - a. Two Reproduction Platoons (combined with two Photo-print platoons)
    - 1. Company Operations
    - 2. Photostat
    - 3. Camera
    - 4. Lay-out
    - 5. Plate
    - 6. Press
    - 7. Cutting and Packaging
  - b. Company Administration and Supply

The functions of the Operations Section may best be shown by listing each subdivision and its particular work. The Operations Section consisted of 2 officers and 21 enlisted men.

- I. Technical Assembly
  - a. To receive, discuss, plan and set deadlines on all incoming work.
  - b. To write up customers specifications and relay these to proper subdivision.
  - c. To issue, from time to time, "Technical Instruction Circulars" in order to maintain basis uniformity.
  - d. To supervise and check status of all work within the battalion.
  - e. To coordinate the efforts of each production unit.

## II. Administration

- a. To enter all incoming work and original material received in battalion records.
- b. To type customer's instructions for drafting and reproduction platoons.
- c. To maintain a customer file on all work.
- d. To list the location and status of all work within the battalion.
- e. To compile periodic efficiency and production charts and to summarize weekly production.

## III. Dispatch Section

- a. To transmit all completed work to proper distribution agency.
- b. To maintain a chronological sample file of all completed jobs.
- c. To maintain a negative and original material file on all work likely to be rerun.

## IV. Editing Section

- a. To check "Acceptability" of all customer's material when it involves large quantities.
- b. To edit and check accuracy of all drafting work before it is reproduced.
- c. To give final approval on all completed work before it is released.

The Operations Section remained the first and last clearance agency for all work.

An interesting picture of the functioning of the Operations Section may be had by following a typical job through various stages of completion.

1. Customer (Air Transport Command) has received permission from A-3 Ground Control, 325th Photo Wing Recon, to discuss job with us and to have it printed. It is a book entitled "Radio Facilities Manual". The original material consists of 36 pages, 1 cover and 1 dummy. Customer wished to have pages saddle-stitched but discussion with Operations Officer and Technical Assembly proved that by printing each sheet separately press time could be saved and this was agreed to inasmuch as the time factor was important. Job was to be printed in one color only - 3,000 copies. In conjunction with the customer, form #1 was filled out and relayed with original material to Administrative Dept. Acceptability of work was checked.
2. From data on form #1, entries were made into job log giving customer, job, number of copies required, and quantity of original material. Forms II, III and IV were filled out, original material was marked with job number. All forms and work were delivered to Drafting

Platoon. Signed receipt (form IV) was returned to our files. Form I was kept in Operating Active File.

3. A daily work report showed progression of work in Drafting. After their work was completed, job returned to Operations and was checked by Editing Section. Any corrections were made immediately and work was sent to the Reproduction Platoon accompanied by all forms. Again Transmittal Receipt (form IV) was signed and returned to our files. Daily work reports showed status of job in reproduction. When reproduction work was completed job was sent to cutting room for final trimming and packing.
4. Completed job was returned to Dispatch Section, samples were filed and job checked against initial specifications. Customer was notified and packages sent to proper distribution agency.

A picture of the Operations Section may be obtained from the above, however, a closer scrutiny will indicate the need for a detailed overall knowledge of all performance techniques on the part of Operations personnel. Conferences on work performance, adjustments in technique, and the general supervision exercised required that personnel be acquainted with drafting and reproduction methods, the relative importance of each job, and the productive capacity of the battalion as a whole, An illustration of this is to be found in the widely diverse nature of the work undertaken and the representative crosssection of "customers" listed below:

<u>LIST I</u>		<u>LIST II</u>	
	copies		
Annotated Photos...	761,292	Eighth Air Force.....	28.5%
Mosaics.....	552,063	ETOUSA.....	17.9
Maps, General.....	2,776,156	Air Ministry.....	17.8
Air Drome Maps.....	827,105	325th PWR.....	15.9
Strategic Target			
Charts.....	398,570	12th Army Group.....	3.2
Tactical Charts....	1,630,735	SHAEF.....	3.0
Misc. Charts.....	410,569	First Allied Airborne Army..	2.8
Tactical Posters...	125,248	USSTAF.....	2.7
Photostats.....	103,863	Ninth Air Force.....	2.3
Forms.....	2,617,750	Miscellaneous.....	1.5
Books.....	691,825		
Miscellaneous.....	1,012,481		
	11,897,657		100.0%
	copies		

The figures given above date from the period when the battalion was formed (April 1944 to May 1945). In all the work shown above, it was the lot of the Operations Section to maintain a smooth and uninterrupted flow of work through the various agencies and to be eventually responsible for the quality, quantity and technique employed for all jobs completed.



Some of the most important work completed included one of the largest mosaics ever attempted in the field (Berlin - scale I:5000), a series of Fortress Town mosaics for the Twelfth Army Group, Four Editions of Special Air Navigation maps, a monthly edition of Flak maps for Eighth Air Forces, a series of navigational aid manuals and diagrams for Air Transport Command, Dropping Zone and Ground Defense maps of the Nijmegen area for the First Allied Airborne Army, important Tactical and Strategic Charts and maps for the Air Ministry, a series of political and administrative maps of Germany and the Occupied Countries for the Office of Strategic Survey, and finally, an important Tactical Dossier was compiled for the Ninth Air Force.

As an indication of how the mission was accomplished, often under short time limits, the battalion received approximately 32 citations and letters of commendation. Of these 25 specifically mentioned work performed by this organization. Among the signatories of the "specific" commendations were: Gen. Omar Bradley, Lt. Gen. Brereton, and Maj. Gen. Doolittle. Such letters furnish an index of the enthusiasm and efficiency with which the personnel devoted themselves to their assigned tasks. A more detailed description of the important jobs can be found in the accounts compiled by the individual units comprising the battalion.

A useful tabulation of work accomplished is given below:

LIST III

Negatives.....	17,030
Contacts.....	4,178
Plates.....	9,231
Impressions.....	13,892,255
Photostats.....	103,863
Copies.....	11,793,794

It has been requested that suggestions be made as to how general efficiency or change in basic mission may have been effected in order to increase the usefulness of the battalion in the Theatre of Operations. These are covered, for the most part, in the various separate unit sections. However, a general observations must include the confusion caused by the "overlap" of the "Engineer" and "Air Corp" commands and the inability to ascertain definitely to which command the organization belonged. This, plus the fact that although we were stationed on an Air Corps base and worked almost wholly with the Air Corps, the Table of Organization and Equipment was that of the Ground Service Engineers. The lack of replacement parts for some of the reproduction machinery sometimes caused unnecessary delay in the completion of much work. Often ordinary drafting and reproduction aids such as Zipatone screen, air brushes and compressors, various tempora pigments and water colors caused considerable delay, although these were readily available in the Zone of the Interior.

Battalion Operations personnel eventually became acquainted with a general knowledge of all reproduction and drafting phases, however, the assignment initially of both a competent drafting and a reproduction man would have eliminated the growing pains first experienced.

Various types of maps were originated and developed by the battalion and then submitted to the final user for modification and approval. A closer liaison between our organization and the final use during the development stages would have afforded a clearer picture of what was needed and a consequent saving of time.

An honest appraisal must take into consideration the highly skilled training and experience of the greater part of the personnel and their knowledge and ability in solving the numerous and often unorthodox types of work presented to them. It was common procedure to work right through regardless of the hours involved, and this personal interest of the men was reflected in the excellence of the results obtained. The voluntary relinquishment of time off, the improvisation of special techniques and the general desire to get the best work out in the shortest time will remain a source of satisfaction to all ranks involved.

We not only satisfactorily fulfilled our primary mission but expanded and improved upon it, and in the course of events, proved to be of greater service to the War Effort than had ever been anticipated.

## PLANS AND TRAINING (S-3)

The mission of this section can be summed up briefly as follows:

1. Preparation and coordination of plans for and supervision of:
  - a. Organization and equipment of units.
2. Preparation and coordination of required phases of combat training and orientation as required by current theatre directives.
  - a. Preparation of training directives, programs and orders.
  - b. Selection of training sites, training aids, and firing ranges.
  - c. Organization and conduct of schools.
3. Operations to include, in general: Technical studies and estimates: plans and orders based thereon and future planning.
  - a. Preparation of estimates, reports, and recommendations based on the technical situation.
  - b. Preparation of plans for and supervision of activities concerning:
    - (1) Troop movements (coordination with S-4 for movements requiring transportation in addition to organize transportation and for routes).
    - (2) Technical employment of units (coordination with S-4 for influence of supply and evacuation on operations).
  - c. Maintaining contact with the Commanders of subordinate units; observing or supervising technical operations as directed by the commander.
  - d. Establishment of liaison with adjacent, higher, and subordinate units.
  - e. Preparation of tentative plans for subsequent phases of a technical operation and for future technical operations (S-4 for practicability of operations from a supply point of view.)
4. Recommendations to the Commander of priorities for assignment of personnel and equipment.

## PLANS AND TRAINING (cont.)

Since this battalion was formed by combining the equivalent of three full-trained and experienced Companies very little individual or unit training was necessary. In fact, the organization can be summed up by saying that additional personnel were injected into trained and operating sections. There existed an overall shortage of both numerically and qualified reproduction personnel. The photo print section was absorbed into the reproduction platoon in order to better utilize the available trained reproduction personnel. This proved to be wise decision as very little need for a photo print section as separate unit has been justified.

Since approximately one half of the total personnel were on an operational status at the activation of the battalion, operational jobs were completed the first day. In a very short time production figures rose to a level that was considered an average for the entire 13 months.

E.T.O. directives required a minimum hours per week in orientation lectures, chemical warfare and basic weapon training. A weekly program was initiated to more than fulfill these requirements. Due to operational technical work all this training had to be done when the men were not employed on their technical shifts. Approximately 95% of all men were qualified in their basic arm.

The interest and enthusiasm shown in such training is shown by the fact that all three Companies completed and won 1st, 3rd and 4th place in an AAF Station 101 Carbine Championship match. The 1st place winners; namely, A Company went on to win the championship of the 325th Wing Command.

Later a pistol team from each of the three Companies placed 1st, 2nd and 4th in a match with all units on AAF Station 101. Four officers and approximately 16 men received one weeks training in firing the 50 calibre AA machine guns at an AA range in Ireland. Two complete crews per gun were assigned and trained at intervals.

Plans of a technical nature were limited to routine inspections and furnishing of technical information as requested. Some technical liaison with A-3 Ground Operations and outside customers was done in the early stages of operations. However, it was found more expeditious to handle most liaison direct with operations section.

The battalion, as set up by the War Department, under the authority of TO & E 5-400 dated 1 November 1943, was comprised of platoons or cells to meet the needs of the 8th AF in the E.T.O. This cellular composition permits the shifting of specific cells between the units or Companies as the working requirements may change during operations. The best example of this occurred the

PLANS AND TRAINING (cont.)

first of January 1945 when approximately one-half of the technical personnel in both the drafting and reproduction Companies were formed into one company and moved to Virton, Belgium.

This split in the battalion was accomplished with very little disruption in personnel and operating procedure and, at the same time, fulfilled a need for such a unit near the headquarters of the 9th AF and the Army Groups.

The quality of the work of the technical personnel in the drafting and reproduction Companies was maintained at a high level throughout the period of the war.

1. Maintenance of equipment and materials in all companies.
2. Maintenance of a high standard of workmanship.
3. Maintenance of a high standard of accuracy.
4. Maintenance of a high standard of reliability.
5. Maintenance of a high standard of security.
6. Maintenance of a high standard of discipline.
7. Maintenance of a high standard of morale.
8. Maintenance of a high standard of health.
9. Maintenance of a high standard of education.
10. Maintenance of a high standard of physical fitness.

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## SUPPLY AND EVACUATION (S-4)

The supply and evacuation section is charged with the preparation of policies for, and the supervision of execution of arrangements for supply, evacuation, transportation, and other administrative matters related thereto. It is responsible for advising the Commander relative to the extent of the administrative support that can be given to any strategical or tactical plan of action, and for recommendation as to the necessary decision concerning supply and evacuation. It is further responsible for the development of those details of the administrative plan which pertain to its functions, the preparation of the necessary orders, and the supervision of their execution.

The specific duties of the supply and evacuation section include the planning for and supervision of activities concerning:

1. Procurement, storage, and distribution of all supplies. (Coordination with S-3 for priority of allocation of supplies.
2. Location of supply and maintenance establishments.
3. Transportation of supplies.
4. Maintenance of equipment.
5. Salvage.
6. Property responsibility.
7. Local purchases.
8. Recommendations as to new types of equipment.
9. Preparation, authentication, and distribution of administrative orders, both fragmentary and complete.

Since the 952nd Topo Company comprised approximately 50% of the entire battalion at the activation and has been on full operational status for several months, considerable supplies were on hand. Considerable stocks of expendables had been built up in the 952nd on the anticipation of the formation of the battalion and several *items* of excess equipment, both American and British, had been acquired during the preceding months. Capt. Johnson, the initial S-4 of the battalion was an experienced supply officer, both in the U.S. and England. He was thoroughly familiar with E.T.O. supply channels and problems. Prior to the activation of the battalion most of the initial issue of the added units had arrived from the U.S. and from depots in England. In a few weeks all major items of equipment had been procured and ample stocks of expendables were available for full operation.

Due to the variable nature of the work requirements, many items of non-authorized expendables and some non-expendable equipment had to be procured. Local purchase was resorted to in some cases but the majority of all items were obtained thru regular supply channels.

Coated paper was one major item that was difficult to obtain in the quantity desired and double coated paper was never

## SUPPLY AND EVACUATION (Cont.)

obtainable in the U.K. A high quality of work was demanded by most of our customers and many special grades and colors of lithographic inks, special chemicals, etc., became almost standard monthly requirements.

Due to the many special items of equipment peculiar to each unit in the battalion, a policy of inner-battalion procedure somewhat difficult from standard was decided upon at the beginning. Instead of S-4 placing all equipment in the Companies on memorandum receipt it was transferred by shipping ticket and S-4's stock records zeroed. Although this procedure may have made the Company supply personnel more aware of their responsibility it is doubtful if the extra paper work required and the loss of direct control by the Bn. S-4 was advisable.

The disastrous fire of 29 December 1945 caused the loss of several important items of standard equipment and most of the excess British items. Fortunately, the unit moving to Belgium on 1st of January was handicapped very little as most of its equipment was packed and loaded into the reproduction vans. The remaining reproduction unit immediately reverted all its work to the mobile vans and lost only about one week's time. Within thirty days the building had been rebuilt and all the burned equipment had been repaired or replaced and full operations were resumed.

Liaison with RAF equipment officer of 8th AF has been highly satisfactory and many needed items both expendable and non-expendable have been procured through this source. Some expendable items, particularly photographic, are common to both Engineer and Air Corps Supply, and were obtained from Air Corps when not readily procurable through normal Engineer Supply.

## COMPANY ADMINISTRATION, SUPPLY AND MESS.

The mission of the headquarters platoon of H&S Company cannot be put down in specific details. To them was assigned the responsibility of company administration, mess, supply and general housekeeping.

Due to the variety of cells in the company, the administrative authority was delegated as far as possible to the individual platoon leader, the company headquarters keeping an overall control of the cells. This cut down most of the confusion of breaking channels by going directly to company headquarters. The administration of passes was by far the most difficult task of the company headquarters. After several systems had failed, it was decided to leave the matter entirely with the platoon leaders. This system work with a minimum of confusion. Other administrative problems were handled with regular Army procedure.

The problem of supply for the company was one of the worst problems it had to solve. The various kinds of supplies handled and the numerous cells of the company to be supplied created many problems. When the company was first activated it had seven different cells all using vastly different technical supplies.

The first problem was to supply two map depots and a No. 1 mess team, which were sent out on detached service when the battalion was activated. After much confusion it was decided that the Map Depots should draw their supplies from the Ninth Air Force and not through this headquarters. Once the problem was solved the supply system worked smoothly with the Battalion Supply Section doing a good job of acquiring the necessary supplies. The worst problem encountered was the control of supplies to the different sections and between companies. This, of course, was a problem for Battalion Supply but caused many headaches for the company supply sections. It was finally driven home to the platoon leaders that no property would be exchanged or shifted from one section to another without clearing through the supply officer. This established the necessary control and worked well.

Salvage, laundry and dry cleaning have always been and probably always will be a problem to the supply section. It has never worked to complete satisfaction since this company has been in existence. Salvage had been too long coming back until a directive came out allowing an item to be requisitioned upon being declared salvageable by the supply officer and letting the man use it until it could be replaced. The laundry and dry cleaning was handled by civilian contract and has never been satisfactory.

With the activation of the battalion, the mess section was established as a separate cell with three types of mess teams. These teams were numbered one, two and three. The No. 1 team was



sent out with the two Map Depot. This team consisting of three men was equipped to service up to 50 men. The other teams were sent along to Pinetree as an advanced echelon to establish messing facilities for the main body to follow. The first impression of our mess hall was very discouraging. Most of the equipment available was of British make and not suited for mass messing facilities. The Wing, which the battalion was destined to become a part of, had decided that the mess should be consolidated and each unit should assign all mess personnel to a wing mess officer. With the central control and much hard work the mess was set in operation. The British equipment furnished the mess proved very unsatisfactory and it was decided to set in operation the field ranges and equipment. This equipment worked very satisfactory and no difficulty was encountered in preparing the food. The next problem was heating enough water for proper cleaning purposes. A modern water heating system was installed and the problem was solved. The most deplorable thing about the mess was that the men had to eat out of mess kits. This condition was never remedied. The overall operation of the mess and the quality and food put out by it was highly commendable.

Under the general housekeeping duties of the platoon fell the carpenter shop. This section was organized to perform various utility jobs. This ranged from carpentry to electrical work and plumbing. At first, all carpenters in the battalion was assigned to the shop and operated under the direction supervision of the headquarters platoon leader. With work request pouring in from all sections of the battalion, and absolutely no lumber available, the situation look hopeless. This problem was solved by salvaging boxes, in which paper and other supplies were received. This salvaged lumber adequately took care of all the immediate carpentry demands. The next problem was encountered when winterization of the tents in the company area was undertaken. Again the problem of lumber supply crept in. This was overcome by using bomb boxes which worked very satisfactorily.

At first there were no provisions made for a separate battalion electrical and maintenance shop but after due consideration it was decided to incorporate them into the carpenter shop and put the whole thing under one head. Then the carpenter shop became as well an electrical and maintenance shop--all functioning under one supervisor. This one shop then handled all first echelon maintenance and repair on all technical equipment for all companies. This system had worked with a minimum of confusion and maximum efficiency.

## TRANSPORTATION SECTION

Assembled on the edge of London on April 1944 was a Battalion of Engineers, newly organized and patiently waiting for orders to move. A small percentage of these troops were the men who made up the transportation section. While everyone was waiting for the word "GO", these men were covering the highways of a strange country from morning to night, collecting the necessary material which was urgently needed to carry their part of the war. It was yet too early to have a system to control this mobile group as the drivers and their vehicles were scattered over practically every section of England, preventing the assembling of the entire body of men at any place in any one time. Still, plans had to be made to shape the section into an efficient working team to carry out and meet the requirements set forth by higher authorities. This burden rested on the shoulders of the officer in charge, Capt. (then lieutenant) Glen L. Anderson. His mission, with the close cooperation of his men was to place properly each man in a position where he was best suited, maintain a large fleet of trucks and stationary equipment to such a degree that the entire battalion could be moved on immediate notice, and to operate each department of the transportation section with the utmost efficiency and economy.

As the days rolled by, equipment arrived and more time was on hand to be used in laying the framework of a well-organized unit. Each man was processed and placed in position, departments were set up with an NCO in charge and an outline of the procedure which was to be followed. Orders were issued for the entire battalion to move to a location some 30 miles northwest of London where work would be carried on in the future. Here again a heavy burden rested on the shoulders of the transportation section. Supplies had to be moved, equipment had to be transferred and men had to be shifted. Continuously and men and vehicles followed the roads from one camp to another, driving long hours and not stopping until the entire job was finished. This move was the first to prove the dependability and speed of this mobile unit.

Upon arrival at the new camp, time was available to put into operation the plans which had been laid for the section operations. Immediately men were assigned the vehicles to which he was best suited as well as to his own liking wherever possible. The mechanics were assigned an equal number of vehicles which were his responsibility in maintaining to a high standard. Also clerks and dispatchers were guided into positions to authorize trips and keep an authentic record of each move that took place where transportation was concerned.

The battalion's work at the new camp was to be done in collaboration with the 325th Photo Wing Recon, which, in course, applied also to the transportation section. Working together, they formed a Motor Pool of nearly 200 vehicles of various types. The Motor Pool consisted of three Air Force Squadrons and one Engineer Battalion, all of which were equipped with practically

the same number of vehicles under the control and supervision of the Motor Pool Officer. This unit operated efficiently and regularly with a steady increase in the output of work as the months passed by.

In July 1944, Lt. Malcolm L. Rose replaced Capt. Anderson as chief of the Motor Pool. It was his job to carry out what had already been started and make allowances for what was to come in the immediate future. The output now was nearing its peak and the wheels of progress seemed to be turning at a critical period.

To maintain the present and future capacity, provisions had to be made in order to keep both men and vehicles in the best of condition. Orders were coming in from Supreme Headquarters emphasizing the tire shortage, a more rigid preventative maintenance program for vehicles and the urgent need for more transportation. Immediately, the battalion responded by reorganizing the various departments and creating the necessary new ones. The mechanics were now fully occupied on a program of preventative maintenance, such as inspections, tests, and adjustments, besides their primary task of making repairs. Trips were rotated among the drivers to prevent driving fatigue and a safeguard against accidents. Clerks and dispatchers revised their department to where the maximum amount of efficiency could be obtained in a limited amount of time. Another new department to be put into operation was the Paint Department. The purpose of this department was to maintain good appearance, prevent rust, and keep equipment properly marked, according to regulations. All these revisions paid well in maintaining the high standard on which successful operation was achieved.

The later part of July 1944 to April 1945 was a period of relentless work and travel for this section. Of the four units operating the Wing Motor Pool, the Engineer drivers handled 40% of the total number of trips each day, covering an average distance of 2000 miles. From early morning until late at night, these men and their vehicles roared along the network of highways, bringing in supplies and delivering the priceless cargoes into the right hands. Not once was there a letup. Rigid schedules had to be met and at no time during the day or night was the Transportation Section without a crew on duty.

One cold day in December, 1944, orders came to split the Battalion in half. One part remained at it's present location and the other settled in Belgium near the small town of Virton. Here again the task of moving faced the men of the transportation unit, but this time a shortage of vehicles was on hand. It was obvious that this wrinkle had to be ironed out and at the same time avoid tampering with the plans for the movement. The best vehicles were assembled to be loaded with either equipment or supplies and proceed with the unit which was bound for its new home in Europe. At the same time, in a move to prevent operations from being held up, we haunted the car parks and supply depots to secure vehicles for the remaining unit to be used to continue carrying out the work. Mobile equipment was

very scarce at this stage of the war but fortunately every missing vehicle was replaced even though the condition of each unit was surprisingly poor. Many of the trucks failed on the trip to the camp. Still, each piece either limped or was towed into the motor pool where a stiff program of repair lay in front of the mechanics.

To deal with the parts situation, the section immediately set out to explore the supply depots and Ordnance Units in order to rush the filling of the requisitions. Articles on order and not in stock were obtained by searching the salvage sites or any other place where a trace of a vehicle was to be found. Slowly but surely, the essential parts and repairs were properly taken care of. The mechanics did a fine job, working from early morning and late into the night with the aid of flood lights. If a job was held up on account of a part that had not as yet arrived, the mechanics moved to another vehicle to carry on the work. The period of time that was available to finish the entire program was unbelievably short, but when the day came for the part of the organization to move away, the new equipment was waiting on the line in good condition, ready for immediate use. Not one unit looked scanty, but instead, looked, and was, a vehicle fresh from the assembly line with new life of service ahead. Each vehicle, as it pulls along the highway, is a "Glamour Girl" not only in appearance, but performance as well. The equipment and men of this section have been a topic of comment for their remarkable service and achievements in an effort to help bring the war to an end.

## COMPANY "A" HISTORY

### DRAFTING

Although Company "A" consists of a Drafting & Mosaic Section, Map & Sortie Libraries and Indexing & Plotting Section, this report deals particularly with the Drafting Section inasmuch as the histories of the other units are documented separately. An attempt has been made to present a representative cross-section of the work in which this section took part, and in presenting it fairly without exaggeration or excuses.

Company "A" fulfilled all those demands made upon it by accepting any and all drafting requisites as pertains to map production. The terse statement, "drafting requisites as pertains to map production" sounds simple enough, but it naively describes a responsibility fraught with the uncertainties and fluidity of modern warfare. Ever changing battle fronts and relocation of vital air targets called for an organization highly flexible and aggressive, ready to meet the tasks placed before it.

For purposes of brevity alone, no attempt will be made to compile a complete roster of the work accomplished. Here then are projects, considered first in importance, and those which brought forth all the ingenuity, skill and perseverance of an extremely versatile body of men: Airfield maps, tactical target maps, radar navigation maps, special air navigation charts used in blind bombing, operational air maps, airfield defense (flak maps), photo/bombardier maps, oblique bombardier/navigator target charts of strategic targets, instrument let-down maps, photo maps, town plans, drafting of rectification charts, preparation of trigonometric data overlays, exposure analysis charts, grid conversion maps, air instruction and precaution posters and pilot's handbooks.

The very essence of this ambitious program is concealed by technical titles which tell little of the effort expended to meet the unusual demands peculiar to much of this work. Yet by virtue of the men's enthusiastic efforts, all duties incurred were satisfactorily completed on or before the specified dates of completion. The terrific allied air offensive of the pre-invasion period was particularly demanding. Unstinting effort of each man and the best usage of his own knowledge was called for and expected. In most instances these special assignments required the Company to work on a continuous three shift basis, instead of the normal two shift work week.

To illustrate the Company's outstanding accomplishments that contributed to the success of the strategic warfare would be a stupendous task, but one worthy of full consideration if circumstances did not deem otherwise. However, several exceptional examples can be cited which brought forth the many commendations bestowed upon the Company by higher authority.

Our first item for serious deliberation will be the Special Air navigation Maps for use by the U.S. Eighth Air Force. This map covers 2°20' of latitude and 4°20' longitude, and was referred to by airplane navigators as an essential aid in navigating to the target and returning to their bases in England. Heretofore, no other map existed showing only those features required for navigation. A special feature of this map was the representation of town shapes as recorded through the medium of Radar photographic apparatus popularly called a "Mickey". Known airdromes, landing fields, large towns, industrial areas, large streams and bodies of water, and railroads through towns were annotated in this series. Thirty maps of this type were produced in four colors totaling 120 separate drawings. Four revisions or editions were made due to improvements in the "Mickey", and for numerous other reasons. As multiple colors demand accurate registration between plates, particular attention had to be given to the drafting phase of the work.

During the month of February, 1945, an entirely new and outstanding Radar Navigation Map was developed and produced under the direction of the 942nd Engineers and the Eighth Air Force Radar Training School. Similar to the Special Air Navigation Map, they differed in that relief effects were added, town shapes were taken directly from aerial photos and map shapes, and that complete railroad systems were added and spot elevations shown. In representing relief effects, great difficulty was encountered in a technique entirely foreign to the facilities at the Company's disposal. Patient experimenting and repeated failures eventually evolved a workable solution to the problem with the result that a method yielding the desired effect was developed. After the first map was finished the representative of this unit and the Eighth Air Force visited the scene of its flight test. Conferences were held which resulted in no major changes or suggestions, much to the Company's satisfaction in having added another victory to its score. In this series 8 maps of 4 colors each were produced, 6 covering the continent and two covering England. The Pacific Theater of Operations will undoubtedly put this type of map to effective use and, with good cause, this Company will share in its achievements.

Flak maps represented the most important operational work incumbent on the Company. These pinpointed all known anti-aircraft batteries on the continent and were revised each month according to information received from sources familiar with the ever changing battle front. These sources, the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces and the Royal Air Force, supplied this information roughly presented on kodatrace sheets. These sheets of kodatrace were used as overlays for a standard base map series also prepared by the 942nd Engineers. It was this Company's job to take these sheets, register them against the corresponding base map, intensify and correct them, opaque all lettering, symbols, and other marked areas and add border information. Difficulties occurred in performing the task of preparing these maps. First, a new type of opaque ink had to be mixed up in order that one of

the requisites, complete density of all information on each kodatrace sheet, be met. This was necessary for the "Deep Etch" type of reproduction used on this occasion. Second, the continued usage of the original kodatraces, brought back for numerous corrections and/or additions, and the scarcity of supply of these sheets, warranted very careful work in re-registration and in the correction and addition of the opaquing. The number of these maps initially averaged about 36 each month. While experimenting with improvements on these maps, the originating agencies sometimes halted work on all the flak maps, which then meant duplication in drafting. With the advent of sizeable allied victories in Europe, the number of flak maps produced each month was gradually reduced.

Important work done for the Air Ministry included a series of Night Target Maps. Sketches of the information to be drafted were submitted by the British. Requirements for this series were great. Extreme care and accuracy was demanded in the drafting of the plates, because the RAF used them for actual night bombing missions. For each of the 32 maps completed, a base map, three kodatrace sheets and an aerial photograph were necessary. One unusual feature about this particular job was the use of color. Magenta was combined with black to reach the final desired effect. Five actual tones of color were derived from these three sheets of kodatrace: magenta overlaying halftone black signifying roads, built-up areas and towns, and mileage circles; pure magenta to indicate the target; halftone black covering the full map area except for the target and water; black to indicate railroads, wooded area and marginal data; and which which represented all water.

As an added feature indicating Company "A's" versatility, 20 maps were made of France in the Benson Series for the 660th Topographic Engineer Bn. This series was three color maps made to a scale of 1:25,000.

The Office of Strategic Services considered the advisability of having a Land Utilization Map, and authorization was given to prepare and reproduce the project. A total of eight separate color plates were involved requiring considerable skill in registration and drafting of the areas.

Another large job dispatched with great skill by Company "A" was the Town Plans made for the Office of Chief Engineer, ETOUSA. The cities covered included Stettin, Prague, Danzig, Krefeld, Koenigsberg, Cheltenham and Wanneickel. The work involved considerable preparation. The procedure was to revise the existing map of the area and draft all the necessary features in black. This black plate was then used as a master plate from which blue line plates were made. Four of these blue lines were necessary, one for each color for each town plan. The real drafting work was then done on the blue plates. Aerial photographs showed that revisions were necessary on these blue plates making the work still more arduous.

New developments in modern warfare also bring about new developments in map requirements. Paratroop units needed special maps to work with, and so Annotated Photo Maps were designed. Thirty of these maps were made in all. There were two sections to the work involved. One was a mosaic and the other was the drafting. The latter was done on acetate and consisted of marking all the outstanding features required such as roads, railroads, water, factories, etc.

Some of the important types of maps and charts to which Company "A" has done have been discussed. Now we come to the remainder of the work which is in reality another phase of accomplishment similarly as important as what already has been covered. Wherever and whenever there is a group of human beings embodied in an armed force, there will naturally be a demand for instructional and informational posters and charts along with graphs and other similar art work. Among the personnel of Company "A" are a number of men who have had a practical civilian experience in this type of work. These men were depended upon to do most of this specialized drafting. The jobs accomplished including air brush work were "Lessons in Escape", Charts for Air Crews, "Rocket Racket", and "History of 8 AF Book". Also drafted were rectification charts, trigonometric data overlays and exposure analysis charts. Other miscellaneous items were pilots handbooks, air instructions and precaution posters and organizational charts. The usual procedure in most cases consisted of merely outlining the requirements of the job and leave the final development and design up to the men. A great many beneficial improvements were made possible by this method of handling the jobs.

Through the course of our problems encountered in our many projects undertaken by the drafting section, it was found necessary for personnel to have some knowledge of the problems and technical procedures of the Reproduction Section. A limited amount of time had to be given all personnel in this additional training.

It is to Company "A's" credit that all assignments were discharged with utmost dispatch despite deficiencies brought about by unusual demands peculiar to some type of work. With all due credit to the ingenuity of men faced with an unfamiliar task, it has been this company's experience to find some of its personnel inadequately trained in the fundamentals of drafting. Realizing that the very substance of map making revolves about the proper use of drafting instruments. It is axiomatic that men must be taught their proper use. In many instances, circumstances were encountered whereby all the mechanical equipment at the Company's disposal was of little use to surmount a particular required obstacle.

Equipment, on the whole, has been satisfactory, although a few suggestions will not be out of order in the light of the Company's experiences when confronted with irregular commitments.



A particular and vital part of the Company's equipment is the drafting set and the general opinion of the men leans toward the need of a set of better quality instruments. The Company's drafting sets did not include contouring pens of required quality which is necessary in map production.

An extremely large quantity of acetate work taxed the Company's allotted number of 36" x 36" illuminated, glass top, drafting tables to the extent that the Battalion's carpenter shop was requisitioned to make additional tables. Such tables are indispensable for purposes of intensifying all ink work done on sheet acetate and aligning registration for color separation. A 50% increase in allotment of these tables is recommended.

Ink is the life blood of the drafting room, therefore should be of good quality. Black ink preponderantly overshadows all others in usage, but has to be more satisfactory than the standard brands we have been using in order to meet the requirements of working on sheet acetate, that the ink be opaque and dense black so as to be impervious to light. We were often unnecessarily delayed because of the lack of a good quality ink.

The Company had not long been in operation when extraordinary assignments required the need of an Air Brush. The Battalion Table of Equipment did not call for such equipment, but through absolute necessity a machine was procured. This valuable adjunct should be included in all Unit T/E's.

Summing up the recommendations on equipment, perhaps the most serious appeal which can be made is in respect to the replacement of worn or faulty equipment.

The organizational chart of Company "A" indicates a very admirable situation in regards to the routing of work within the drafting rooms through the Operations Section.

Just as map making requires men adapted to the mechanical aspects of the work so it demands a class of men adept in the art of freehand work. Too often the Company's efficiency was been impaired by the temporary loss of technical personnel drawn out of the ranks for purposes of performing details relevant to Battalion "housekeeping". No one denies the necessity of these "details" to accomplish their end, but such tasks could be performed by Duty Soldiers, MOS 590, the number of which is all too few.

So long as men strive for existence and achievement in some chosen field, it is their prerogative to desire a just and fair consideration in matters concerning rewards for duties fulfilled. This reasonable attitude is to be especially appreciated when a difference in recompense exists between two individuals or groups of people performing the same tasks. Giving due consideration to the Company's commendations and extra-ordinary achievements as compared with similar organizations which have been justly

rewarded for meritorious services performed, the opinion is held that so far as official recognition is concerned, Company "A" and the entire Battalion has been underrated.

## THE MOSAIC SECTION

Soon after the 942nd Engr. (Avn) Topo. Bn. commenced operations, an urgent need developed for photo maps of specific areas to be used by both the Ground and Air Forces. To meet these demands it was necessary to organize a separate section composed of personnel from the drafting platoons. This particular section had to be capable of producing photomaps from aerial photographs in extremely short time intervals. Too, it had to be capable of constructing these photomaps, accurate in azimuth detail, and simultaneously retaining a uniform scale. Thus a separate mosaic section was formed -- a section which rapidly proved to be an important adjunct to the drafting sections.

A considerable number of the personnel had only a limited conception of mosaic construction and were not sufficiently acquainted with the work to do the improvising which was required on some equipment. However, due to the enthusiasm and efforts of the officers and personnel, these difficulties were not only overcome, but it was possible to eliminate other obstacles, each of which, in itself, was capable of causing serious inconvenience. For instance, the problem of ratioing all prints to the required scale involved making the necessary computations for the rectification of tipped and tilted photographs. This would have been comparatively simple with the aid of appropriate instruments; however, this was a section of makeshift equipment, therefore the computation of the angle of tip and tilt and solution of intricate details of rectification was accomplished by such primitive methods as the tilting the easel of the camera to coincide with the computed angle. Fortunately, the larger portion of the work required only a straight ratio.

Due to the time element involved, the great number of available enemy maps, the variation of the mapping system in the Theatre of Operations, and the general purposes for which these mosaics were needed, it became mandatory that the more precise method of controlled mosaics be abandoned in favor of a less accurate but more speedier means of construction. A period of experimentation eventually evolved a technique which proved eminently satisfactory.

During its early stages, the work consisted chiefly of the laying of ratioed photographs in which the matching of the detail was the primary basis. This method was most applicable for the laying of "strip mosaics" -- that is mosaics that were composed of not more than four or five sorties taken approximately parallel to each other. However, where larger areas were involved, this form of mosaic construction proved inadequate in that it afforded absolutely no control as regards angular or linear scale. This is readily understood in considering that not only was the section responsible for the actual construction, but was also obliged to select the majority of the coverage used in the work, coverage that had to be obtained from many different

sorties, taken at various altitudes, widely diverse types of cameras (American and British) at different times and varying in direction from parallel to perpendicular to each other; therefore, as the demand for large area mosaics steadily increased, the laying of uncontrolled mosaics was discontinued and experiments were undertaken in the hope of finding some quick and convenient method which afforded adequate means of control.

After overcoming many initially discouraging obstacles, a "Semi-Controlled" type of construction was adopted, although not being such in the orthodox sense. For this reason, we continued to designate all mosaics as "Uncontrolled." This particular type of photomap is prepared by first ratioing photographs to a base map whose scale is 1:25,000 and then converting both the maps and photographs to the scale at which the mosaic is to be laid. The base maps are then mounted on sectional boards, and the photos laid over them, affording enough control to suit the final purpose for which it was intended. It may be pointed out here that if it were possible to lay the base maps to the required scale before the prints were ratioed, the work would be greatly facilitated. This is due to the fact that any discrepancy arising from incorrect matching of maps or the error introduced by stretching individual maps during the mounting process would automatically be adjusted in the ratio of the individual photographs. As time was always an important factor, however, it was necessary to ratio the photographs while the base maps were in the process of being printed to the appropriate scale.

When the enlarged base maps have been received from the reproduction unit, they are mounted on pressed wood boards which measure 45 x 42 inches. These boards are butted together in order to provide a base for the complete area of the mosaic. The size of these boards is determined by the sheet size 15 x 21, which in turn is controlled by the size of the camera plate and the optimum dimensions for cutting the coated paper stock on which mosaics are eventually reproduced. This latter factor was important because of the scarcity of this type of paper. The method of having a standard board saved much time, due to the fact that it was possible to separate each completed board from the mosaic without effecting the unfinished portions of the work. Thus the process of laying and reproducing may be carried out simultaneously.

Dating from the offensive launched at the Normandy shores throughout the sweep through France, Belgium, the enormous task of affecting the Rhine crossing and the final advance into the heart of Germany, this section played an important role. It is worthy of note that during the period prior to D-Day, a three-shift basis was inaugurated just to compute military coordinates of tactical points on individual photographs of the Normandy beachhead -- photographs which played an important role in the determination of enemy strongpoints, disposition of troops, and in furnishing other vitally essential information. To help alleviate the burden of neutralizing the strong enemy position,

it was necessary that the Allied gain every possible bit of information concerning the numerous strongpoints along the Cherbourg peninsula, and as aerial photographs are by far the most efficient means of gaining such information, this section was called upon to make uncontrolled photomaps of such key points as Vire, Aveanches and St. Lo. The decision to bypass certain fortified towns was not alone based on the merits of their size nor their relative position; an important factor was the strength of their fortifications. These can best be ascertained by the aid of tessellated aerial photographs; consequently, as the allied forces gained momentum, this unit was called upon to produce photomaps of such memorable towns as St. Malo, Brest, Lorient, Nantes, Rennes, and town plans of Laval and Le-Mans.

While the tactical Air Forces were steadily pounding the enemy's strongpoints, transportation systems, ammunition dumps, water works, and industrial areas, the Strategic Air Forces were attacking oil dumps, factories and communication systems miles in advance of the ground troops. Necessity demanded the production of mosaics of large areas in order that the most urgent missions might be determined. Some of the work accomplished in this regard included mosaics of such areas as from Le Havre to Paris and of such towns as Melun, the important fortress towns along the Marne River and that most difficult strongpoint of Metz; then on to Dijon, Strasburg, Nancy, Mulhouse, Troyes, Verdun and Leige.

The work was not only concerned with the preparation of mosaics for the Air and Ground Forces, but proved equally instrumental in the preparation for the Great Allied Airborne invasions of Nijmegen, Arnhem, Valkenswaard and Grave. These mosaics were so extensively used that the demand for them far exceeded the initial requirements, and additional copies had to be re-run.

It may be interesting to note that without the support of a major seaport in southern France, the invasion of that area may have had an entirely different outcome. Here again this section proved to be of assistance in the construction of a detailed townplan of Marseilles and various mosaics of the surrounding area. Significant mosaics of such towns as Trier, one of the gateways to the Moselle Valley, Julich, Duren, Gladbach and Cleve, were also completed.

Inasmuch as the Strategic Air Forces were allotted an important role in the neutralization of the Siegfried Line and defenses, it was required that we make mosaics of these strongpoints for both the Air and Ground operations. These operations were of such a scale that mosaics were prepared of the entire Rhine River. A detailed mosaic of Berlin has just been completed. This will undoubtedly prove of invaluable assistance to the Allied occupational troops.

In recapitulation, it is worthy of note that this section of improvised instruments and materials, inexperienced personnel;

handicapped by the different procedures required by various customers, successfully met every demand made upon it. Certain alterations could have been made which would have greatly accelerated and raised the standards of the work. One of the major handicaps was the lack of equipment such as a Saltzman enlarger needed to adjust the many tipped and tilted photographs used. Too, there were many items easily obtained in the zone of the interior that were unobtainable in this area, and so difficult shortages were encountered because of the fact that our operations extended far beyond our initial mission. The unfortunate result was that we had to resort to improvising which in turn resulted in the loss of invaluable time.

Another problem which bears mentioning is the delay realized in obtaining aerial negatives after we have selected the coverage. The major delay may be attributed to the fact that the negatives were used by many different organizations and were acquired in terms of priorities. Although this handicap cannot wholly be eliminated, the delay could be lessened considerably if the films and libraries were more centrally located; thus eliminating unnecessary channels.

Finally, mention is made of unnecessary difficulties encountered because of customer's failure to provide initially, sufficient and specific data. In some instances, we started a job with definite procedures only to have our entire conception of the projects altered at a later date. The unfortunate result was that invariably a state of confusion persisted throughout the entire section, not to mention the unnecessary delay which in some of these cases did result in cancellation of work on or just before completion.

A conclusion to this report must emphasize the fact that in spite of the obstacles described herein, not only was the initial mission successfully completed, but it was expanded and enabled the section to be of greater value than had been originally expected.

## MAP LIBRARY SECTION

The mission of the Map Library Section was to establish and maintain a library containing large scale maps, mosaics and town plans for PI use and to supply groups within the wing with maps pertinent to flying.

A total of 120 map cabinets and cases were secured and set up in the map section of the library. File copies and stock on 60 major GSGS map series of Germany, France, Holland and Belgium, 1300 other separate miscellaneous series covering near east, Africa and the whole of Europe, 16 AMS series of Far East, small scale maps covering the world and all major types of maps of England were secured. In addition, orders were handled by this section for flying groups within the wing for the following types of maps: High altitude fighter maps, GSGS Plotting Series, USAAF Plotting Series, Special Air navigation, USAAF Mickey Maps and Loran and GEE charts. File copies of 850 mosaics of different towns, etc, of Europe and mosaics of approx. 1:25,000 scale of a large portion of Germany were held.

File copies of 680 town plans were held in addition to numerous sets of books of thru route town plans.

Indexes showing availability were maintained for all maps held. It was necessary to draw up indexes of all major maps for conversion and clarity.

Permanent and temporary issue books were used for securing stock records kept in the stock record book.

A card file was maintained for mosaics in alphabetical order by countries. Town plans were filed in manila folders alphabetically.

Under unusual events the following occurred: On 3 August 44 an order for maps to be delivered by air by noon 4 August was received from 9th Engr. Command to relieve map shortage in that command on the continent.

On 2 Sept. 44 a large map order of approx. two tons was secured from the depots and dispatched to the continent by noon the following day to Hdq. 12th Army Group to relieve existing shortage.

In Sept. 44 orders for maps were received from Director of Reconnaissance, 9th AF. These maps were secured from the depots and dispatched by air courier to relieve existing shortages.

An order from Hdq AAF Washington for 10,000 Mickey maps was filled and dispatched to the ZI by this section.

## PLOTTING SECTION

The purpose of the Plotting Section was to plot reconnaissance sorties, primarily those flown for damage assessment or survey sorties flown for the M.I.S. Plots provide visual record of total areas covered by the sortie.

A Master Plot is the original plot composed of cut portions of G.S.G.S. maps on which the areas covered by the photos of a sortie have been outlined.

Primary recipient of Master Plots are Cover Section and Tracing Section. Photostatic copies are distributed to various sections; one copy-plot is filed with the sortie.

Upon receipt of a sortie the appropriate entries are made in the record. These entries are: sortie number, date, prints, F.L., date and time sortie received; person to whom sortie is assigned for plotting.

Plotter locates and plots directly on the proper scale map all runs in the sortie. G.S.G.S. maps, generally 1:100,000 or 1:250,000 scale are used. The plotted portions of maps are cut out and pasted on cardboard background. Each cut portion contains the following information: Latitude and longitude of the area, G.S.G.S. series, sheet number, and I.Q. of the run. The label contains: sortie number, date, height, time, F.L., scale, print numbers, I.Q. and distribution.

Completed plot is then checked by Damage Section and Cover Section. Final entries are then made in the records including date completed, parts to plot, date and time dispatched to Reproduction; also date and time copy plots are received from Reproduction.

Equipment used consists of Plotting templates, Uno pens, straight edges, plotting sides such as airfield maps, target folders, target identification prints.

Personnel consists of one officer in charge of section, 19 EMS and 4 WACS. During regular routine work three shifts operated, the ranking noncom of each acting as shift supervisor, Day shift worked from 0700 hrs. to 1700; swing shift from 1700 to 2400, and Graveyard from 2400 to 0700.

The American plotting section was begun at Medmenham in January 1944 when one sergeant was assigned to S.A. section to plot S.A. sorties suitable for cover purposes. Later on and with additional help the section began to plot regular reconnaissance sorties.



When the 325th Wing (then the 8th) moved to Pinetree, another plotting group was put under training.

On June 1st 1944 the two groups combined at Pinetree and began operations as a regular section. Strength of the section was one officer and twenty-five enlisted men.

During slack periods other jobs were done such as making total cover traces, A/F overlays, film and sortie inventories.

STATISTICS: Total sorties plotted to 1st May 1945 -- 2,710  
Total prints plotted to 1st May 1945 -- 691,420

## TRACING SECTION

The mission of the Tracing Section was to maintain a coverage system enabling the PI's to quickly find all cover held in the Library of any given point.

The following procedure was established at the RAF Library and was adopted by this Library. First a 1:4,000,000 map of Europe was subdivided into 190 areas, each area being assigned a number and a letter. This map was called the master Trace Map. Next, a map of 1:250,000 scale was secured for each area. On this, the Trace Map, was outlined the areas as shown on the master Trace Map. The name of the largest city on the Trace Map and the area number were then inserted at the bottom of each one. Then a sheet of tracing linen was laid over each Trace Map and the area border lined off. The area number was inserted in the lower left hand corner, the name in the center under the border and in the lower right hand corner the number 1 indicating the first trace sheet and a V indicating vertical photos traced. When the first trace sheet became full a plus sign was placed beside the one to indicate a later sheet in existence. When that procedure was completed for the 190 area the tracers were ready to record cover.

When the sorties had been plotted in the Plotting Section the master Plots were sent to the Tracing Section. There the various trace areas on which parts of the sorties fell were entered on the Master Plot. The tracers would then take a Master Plot and a trace map and Trace Sheet indicated on the Master Plot, orient the Master Plot on the Trace Map by coordinates and Plinimetry, lay the Trace Sheet over these two with the area border on the Trace Sheet falling on the trace map on to the Trace Sheet. If that was the fifth sortie to be traced on that trace sheet, that number was ticked along the sortie and the number five position in an index box at one side of the trace sheet was filled in with the following information, date of sortie was flown, scale quality, sortie number, library reference number and part number if there was more than one sheet to the Master Plot. The sortie was then entered in the record book. If the sortie fell over another sortie a different colored ink was used for clarification.

All Master plots made from maps of scales other than 1:250,000 had to be pantographed to that scale. The coordinates and enough Plinimetry were included for orientation on the Trace Map.

Before the start of operations all of the trace sheets that the RAF Library had drawn up since its activation in 1939 were reproduced by the die line method for the AAF Library. This included the old Trace Series of all sorties flown prior to July 1943 consisting of 54 areas and the new trace series of 190 areas described above.

Operations began in June 1944. There was a crew of 8 tracers and two pantographers. This crew was unable to stay current and part of the work was turned over to the Drafting Section of Co A, 942nd Engrs. A new system for tracing was finally used by which the AAF Library tracers simply traced the Raf Library traces. This system enabled 6 men in The AAF Tracing Section to stay current with 20 RAF Library Tracing Section personnel.

## CURRENT SORTIES SECTION

The mission of the Current Sorties Section was fourfold: to record and box all sorties, to record and file all photostat copy plots received in this library, to maintain the Library Reference Register and the Conversion Table and to order all sorties required on loan from the RAF Medmenham Library.

Three types of sorties each requiring a different method of processing, were received in the Current Sortie Section. They were:

- A. Current Reconnaissance
- B. Static Reconnaissance
- C. Strike Attack

A-Current Reconnaissance Sorties were received directly from the Airfield Labs for immediate interpretation. The following information on the sortie was recorded in the Current Sortie Register: Sortie Number, initials of recorder, date received and first and last print number of all cameras. The sortie was placed in a print transit case along with the pilots trace and delivered to the PI section. There a sign out card was filled in with sortie number, date, name and section of user. This card was filed in a signed out card file by sortie number to assist subsequent borrowers in locating the sortie. When the first interpretation was completed the sortie was returned by the PI and then sent in to Plotting Section. At the end of about ten days the sortie usually had been plotted and had been assigned a Library Reference number by the RAF Library. The sortie was then boxed. The 6" prints went into 10½ X 10½ X 2 inch boxes and the 24" into 8½ X 10½ X 2 inches. The Library Number was printed on one side of the box in red ink, and the sortie number printed on the lid. RAF Library used black ink for their copy. A plot, the pilots trace and a sign out card were placed in one of the boxes on the lid of which was stamped PLOT INCLOSED. The plot was a photostat reproduction of a piece of map on which the prints were outlined, showing the area they covered. The boxer then entered the following information on the boxing and indexing form: sortie number, library reference number, check mark to indicate a plot was enclosed and number of boxes in the sortie. The original of this form was turned over to the library reference register recorder who entered the number of copies (indicated in the margin of the B & I form if more than one) and number of boxes of each sortie in the library reference register and the library reference number, initials of boxer and date boxed in the current sortie register. The duplicate of the B & I form was sent with the sorties to static sortie section.

B-Static Reconnaissance Sorties were those on which the interpretation, plotting and boxing was done at the RAF station. Both copies were held at the RAF Library until those phases where

completed. They were then boxed and the copy numbered in red ink and was sent to this library. These sorties were entered on the boxing and Indexing forms and sent to the static sortie section with one copy of the form. The other copy was turned over to the library reference register recorder who entered the number of copies and boxes in the library reference register and in the current sortie register the sortie number, initials of the man who checked the sortie in date received, that it was boxed by Medmenham and the library reference number.

C-Strike Attack Sorties were received from SA section after the interpretation work was completed. The first step in processing was to enter in the current sortie register the SA number, initials of man checking in the sortie and the date received. They were then turned over to the boxing section. There the photos were separated into their respective Bomb Groups and then the following information was entered on the SA work sheets.

1. SA number.
2. Library reference number (since SA's were received and held only in the AAF Library, the RAF Library, which assigned all other library reference numbers, turned over the 17,000 and 27,000 block to the AAF library for assignment to SA's.)
3. Date SA was flown taken from plotting report.
4. Photos received, lowest numbered Bomb Group listed first along with sorties flown by the Group (An SA sortie consists of photos taken by a number of planes participating in the attack. Each group of photos taken by one plane is a sortie, all the sorties taken during the attack are collectively called a Strike Sortie.)
5. Target covered, taken from the Plotting report.
6. Initials of boxer.

The sorties are then boxed in the normal boxing procedure. The following information was entered in the Strike Attack Register by the boxer: SA number, date flown, number of boxes, number of copies, initials and indexing form was sent with the sorties to the static sortie section and the original copy turned over to the library reference register recorder who entered in the current sortie register the initials of the boxer, date boxed and the library reference number.

The information for the library reference register was copied from the RAF library register each day by one man delegated the liaison man. The recorder for the AAF library would enter the information the AAF library reference register, the conversion table, and the plot book. The conversion table was a card file kept by sortie number which converted sortie numbers to library reference number.

When plots were received in the library they were checked in the plot book which was kept by sortie number. The library reference number, if available, and the sortie number were put on

the plots and they were filed in the plot file by library number. If the library number was not yet available they were filed temporarily by sortie number. The standard distribution for the library was one negative photostat copy of reproduction use and 4 positive copies. Usually however only two positive copies were received from squadrons located on the continent.

The current sortie section ordered all sorties needed on loan from the RAF library. A record book was set up showing date sortie was ordered, sortie number, library number, name of borrower, section of borrower, date sortie was received and date returned.

## STATIC SORTIE SECTION

The mission of the Static Sortie Section was to store all sorties received by the Library and order and replace all prints removed from sorties.

All sorties received by Static Sortie Section were recorded in the Inventory Book, checked for plot and signed out card, and placed on the shelves in Library Reference Number order. When a sortie was removed from the library, the sign out card was filled in and filed in the sign out card file by Library Reference Number. When prints were removed from a sortie, the user would fill in a print order slip and deposit it in the print order box. An order was compiled from these slips about every four days. When sorties were returned to the library, they were placed on a return counter and shelved by library personnel. This permitted checking for missing prints and plots.

Upon activation, the Static Sortie Section received about 15,000 sorties, all duplicates of the sorties held in the R.A.F. library. These represented about 4 1/2 years of flying. By May, 1945, an additional 18,000 Library Reference Numbers were assigned. The A.A.F. Library received about 15,000 of those sorties, the rest being Coastal Command and Far East Sorties, were held only at the R.A.F. Library.

The greatest difficulty encountered in the Static Section was finding storage space and shelving material. All shelving was made from salvaged gun boxes and put up by the Library personnel. By December of 1944, sorties were stored in 4 different rooms. In January, the sorties in the three extra rooms were consolidated in one large room where the shelves were stacked 14 high. One more mass movement was made in which all sorties covering Allied occupied territory were removed to Nuneham Park. This confined all sorties to one room again for about the end of the European War. During all moving periods, the library was kept in full operation.

COMPANY "B"  
(REPRODUCTION)

Company "B" is the sole reproduction agency of the Battalion. Although most of the work done by this section was prepared by Company "A" there were many occasions when jobs were received which required reproduction only. Often it was possible, then, for this section to be extremely busy at times when other sub-units of the Battalion were engaged in just normal operations. Consequently, working on a 24 hour basis, 3 shifts a day, became standard procedure.

A picture of how Company "B" functioned and the diverse problems encountered in its operations may be had by following a job through the various phases from the time it was received from Battalion Operations up to its final completion.

When a job is delivered to reproduction, it is systematically and carefully checked to see that the copy is complete and usable, and to plan exactly how the job will be handled in all sections of the shop. A reproduction job jacket is filled out which stays with the copy at all times and contains information for each section on exactly how the job is to be handled.

The Reproduction Operations section functioned to receive, coordinate and plan the most efficient means of reproduction for maps, mosaics and other operational material/required by both the Air and Ground Forces in this Theatre.

Since speed, accuracy and the conservation of material were of the utmost importance, it was necessary for the operations section to examine each individual job as it was received to determine the most practical method of reproduction. Orders were received for almost every conceivable type of work, varying from simple one color books, pamphlets and posters to more complicated maps and charts in as many as seven or eight colors, requiring a great deal of process time and many thousands of impressions. Almost without exception, the orders for work were of such a nature that speed was of extreme importance and it was not unusual for completed printed matter to be delivered to a customer in a matter of hours after the request was received. It was therefore imperative that the various jobs be routed through the plant so that a minimum of time would be lost in each department. To do this, a job ticket was written up giving the specification and any special instructions necessary; a handling priority established, and this information, together with the copy, sent to the Camera section to begin its reproduction process. A constant check was kept on each job, as it progressed through the various departments to insure that the highest possible quality was maintained and the delivery deadline met. Very often an unforeseen technical problem would arise,



necessitating a complete change in the original method of production. Any major changes or revisions were received by this office from Battalion Operations and passed on to the sections concerned.

As originally set up, the .T.O. of this Battalion called for a Reproduction Company of some 185 men and we operated under this system for nine months. When, however, the greater majority of the organization, along with most of the more experienced personnel and the major part of the equipment were transferred to the Continent, we were faced with the prospect of producing almost the same volume of work as before with perhaps 50% of our personnel and 40% of equipment. To add to our problem, a devastating fire swept the plant, destroying beyond repair most of our remaining static equipment, together with our entire plate, process and camera rooms. It is interesting to note that during this period, when three quarters of our equipment and supplies were represented by a heap of smoldering rubble, the presses were idle less than twelve hours. Making use of our vans and what little could be salvaged from the fire, the men, working under the most adverse conditions, managed to keep production moving so that most of our commitments were met.

Too much cannot be said for the various department heads as well as the men working under them for the way they carried out their tasks during this time, and it was only through their skill and efforts that within two months after the fire the production figures for this organization rose to the point where they compared favorably with those reached before the Company was separated.

From reproduction operations, the job moves to the camera section. It is here that work is really initiated, as the copy is photographed with a 24" x 30" process camera to produce the negatives that are the basis for all the rest of the reproduction process. The copy is brought to the desired scale, the "separation negatives" are made for the various colors, and continuous tone copy is shot in "half-tone" to make possible its accurate reproduction as a series of tones.

In addition to the process camera work, this section also has several other functions to perform in getting out work assigned to the battalion. The work falls into three main categories:

- (a) The making of line and half-tone negatives, contact positives, and contact negatives. These are used for plate making which are in turn put on a printing press so that any number of copies can be made.
- (b) The making of contact prints, or ratio prints from aerial photographs. The ratio prints are all made to a predetermined scale to satisfy the demands of the mosaic section.
- (c) The making of photostat copies of master sortie plots,

tracing charts, weather charts, etc. These were required usually in lots up to 100.

The camera equipment used was a Rutherford 24" x 30" process camera. This was suitable for the work, but could not accommodate very large copy due to its being housed in a trailer. The darkroom was also very small, causing difficulty in handling large films. When half of the reproduction personnel left and took the camera trailer with them, the remainder were forced to work with an old Lithotex camera. Its size is only 20" x 24", smaller than the maximum stock size of the presses. A new back to accommodate a larger negative was made that would shoot up to 24" square, but it is still necessary to shoot much of the copy in two sections. A camera scale was also made and installed which resulted in easier manipulation, thereby speeding up the work. Two new copy holders were made and fitted so that different types of large copy could be handled. The camera had to be squared up so that on multi-colored work the different colors would register. A flash gun was designed which cut the flash exposure on half-tone negatives to approximately 1/12 of the previous exposure.

Much of the work was beyond the scope of the meager equipment, but by exercising a little ingenuity in making home made equipment, the work was turned out.

Photo print work was done on a Model A-11 contact printer and a B-11 Elwood Enlarger. Much of this work was also beyond our ordinary facilities, but with the adaption of lenses of different focal length taken from the 8" x 10" view camera, and the 4" x 5" speed graphic the work requirements were always met. An electronic interval timer was adapted to the enlarger making it possible to get more consistent results.

The photostat machine used was a British model 2 type W machine. Records show that work turned out on it were of superior quality and in much greater quantity than work done by other units using similar or superior machines. Great difficulties were experienced due to lack of space for processing. Machines for drying were also inadequate in capacity.

The number of personnel would have been sufficient if all men could have been present at all times. Often shortage of help due to the drawing of company details resulted in a slow down of production.

The T/O in comparison to Air Force units doing similar work is considered disproportionate.

Many changes would be advisable in the TBA. The process camera should be large enough to shoot negatives larger than the press plate; it should also be easy to manipulate in order to speed up production. A copy board large enough to handle all

sizes of copy and of rigid construction so that it will always be in square is needed. Arc lights should be adequate so that excessive exposures are not necessary. A good vacuum back that will hold the film flat would have been of considerable help.

The model A-11 contact printer is of good construction. The B-11 Elwood enlarger is of poor construction and is issued with a poor lens. Heat from the enlarging bulb often cracks the negative holding glass. Clips to raise top negatives glass were not satisfactory as they also cracked the glass. The easel could be improved. A ratio scale and an electronic timer would have greater facilitation over work. The lens will not cover the full film size.

The photostat machine is entirely hand operated and the quality of the work varied with the operator.

The drying machines, which are of British make, often break down. They should be equipped with a speed regulator so that prints can be dried in one revolution of the drum.

There are not enough trays supplied to the dark rooms and they are not large enough. Trays 32" x 32" should be standard equipment. A contact printer large enough to take the largest size of film and paper should be standard equipment. It should be at least 24" x 30".

A chemical mixing machine should be issued to each reproduction platoon.

A filmdrying cabinet would result in greater production and greater uniformity of results.

Photographic contact and enlarging paper should be more standardized and stocked in a greater range of contrasts.

In spite of the difficulties encountered this department produced in one seven week period, 2432 photographic negatives, 50,000 photostats and 1880 vatoid enlargements (projection prints).

## (PROCESS)

When the completed negatives, both halftone and line were received by the Process Dept. the job specifications were checked to determine just how it should be laid out. In the case of a booklet the pages must be assembled in such a manner that they will appear in sequence when the printed sheets are gathered together after printing. In map reproduction where perhaps four or five colors are involved, it is necessary that the respective negatives be positioned with the greatest accuracy so that very close register is obtained. There is always the danger that the negatives will become distorted either through stretch or shrinkage, particularly during extremely wet or humid weather, so each color must be fitted to the other and made to fit perfectly.

When the final layout or "flat" is completed it must be checked to see that all margins, trims or folds are correct, the negatives are in their proper position and any additions or deletions necessary have been made.

The flat is then given to the retoucher, who will block out or opaque the areas that are not to appear on the printed sheet. Due to faulty copy, impurities in the developing agents and dust, etc., there are usually a great many imperfections in a negatives and these must all be eliminated by painting them out with an opaque fluid.

Due to the fact that one of our cameras was not large enough to accommodate our maximum printing size, it was necessary very often to shoot the work in two sections and then strip them together, a process which involves a great deal of skill. Since nothing can be done to remedy any defects after the plate has been made it is imperative that the Process Dept do a thorough and careful job before the plate is sent into the plate dept for printing.

Soon after the battalion was activated and had moved to Camp Lynn the process section was set up and in full operation in a room of its own in a Dallas hut. The equipment consisted of six 32" x 40" light tables, side tables for sorting and handling the negatives and finished flats, and the various brushes, knives and drafting instruments, necessary to handle the wide variety of work to be done.

For several weeks before and after D-day almost every job was top priority. The speed and efficiency of this section was a major factor in getting every job out under the deadline, in spite of being hampered by lack of materials and the need for improvisation.

During the late summer of 1944 the battalion produced a number of large mosaics in addition to the regular run of flak maps, target charts, special air navigation maps and target information sheets. These mosaics required stripping a positive

grid to the negative half-tone mosaic sheet, in a minimum of time and only by production-line methods was this accomplished.

In the fall of 1944 a series of Japanese Power maps were begun which required laying strip film on glass blueline drawings. The camera section developed a method of wholesale production of the various symbols on strip film while the process department developed their own method of laying it on glass without the usual chemicals or equipment considered necessary in a civilian shop.

About the same time a series of town-plans of German cities were printed, in six colors. These were produced from bluelines on white enameled plates, the color separation being done by direct drafting on these plates, a separate one for each color. All checking and touching up was done by the process section.

On December 29, 1944, a fire of unknown origin started in the process room and swept the whole rear half of the reproduction building, completely destroying all equipment and expendable supplies except those on hand in the supply room. Shortly after this over half of the reproduction personnel and equipment and over three-fourths of the supplies moved to the far shore, leaving a layout van with a few small built-in light tables and practically nothing more to the process section.

It was imperative that full production be maintained because of a sudden influx of top priority jobs resulting from the German Ardennes counter offensive. The men of the process section on their own initiative purchased their own brushed, knives, rules and tapes locally, and using the small light tables available plus one large one borrowed from the drafting platoons, working in the cramped confines of a van that was certainly never designed for high production on a 22 x 29 press size flats, they met every work requirement expected of them, and in fact increased production to a new high.

The building was rebuilt on a smaller scale and the process section was able to move inside during the first week of February. Within the next month two new large size light tables were built and the section was gradually re-equipped until on V-E Day it was operating normally.

Several highly-complicated multi-color jobs requiring close registration were handled during this period, and although they were non-operational they were handled with the usual speed and efficiency.

(PLATES)

When the flat is completely laid out, checked and opaqued, it is sent to the plate department, where the image is then transferred to a zinc plate with a light sensitive surface by means of exposure to a powerful carbon arc light. The plate is then developed under water to remove the unexposed areas, etched to make them ink repellent, and after being given a coating of gum to prevent oxidation, is then ready for the press.

Being a chemical rather than a mechanical process, the making of plates since the formation of the battalion has been by no means an easy task. The inconsistency of the weather, the variation in the chemicals obtainable in this theatre, as well as the machinery and supplies on hand all, added to the problem of securing a uniform printing plate.

Normally a unit of this kind is designed to operate from mobile equipment in vans, but since the volume of work undertaken by this battalion was so large it was found that this method was impracticable and that some means of setting up a static plant indoors would have to be found. Consequently upon our arrival at Camp Lynn equipment such as whirlers, sinks, arc lights and, vacuum frames, of both British and American manufacture were obtained and set up. This arrangements helped considerably, and almost from the very beginning the section was operating twenty-four hours a day and producing sufficient plates to supply six presses.

Since any failure of plates after going to press would mean a loss of time as well as material, it was the responsibility of this department to see that each individual job was properly handled, formulas were adjusted to compensate for changes in weather conditions, and the personnel instructed in the correct operating procedure.

The records show an average of well over 500 plates made per month, with this figure rising to more than 800 on several occasions. With the loss of personnel due to the movement of part of B Company, and the much greater loss or damage to our equipment in the fire which virtually destroyed our entire plant, it became necessary not only to improvise means of maintaining production, but also to train the replacements sent to us.

It was only through the hard work and close cooperation of the men that this was possible, and it was not long before the department was functioning normally again and has maintained since that time a very high degree of efficiency and skill.

As soon as the plates are finished they are stored in a special rack under dry conditions, and are ready for the press. When the job is to go to press the sequence of colors on plates

is decided and the pressmen draw their plates only as they are needed. The plate is clamped to its cylinder and after an OK is given for color and position on the sheet by reproduction operations, the press section takes over the work.

The pressmen are responsible for the quality of the work. They are responsible for the color and position of the plates on the cylinder. They are also responsible for the quality of the work on the press. They are responsible for the quality of the work on the press.

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(PRESS)

Two Webendorfer presses (22" x 29") were at first used, working for twenty-four hours a day. The demand became so great that later on the press department was enlarged by the addition of two Harris presses. (20" x 22½"). At a later date, two more "Web" presses were added to the train, which made a total of six presses turning out work, all working twenty-four hours. After being used for about five months the Harris presses were reoiled.

Working under adverse conditions became more of a reality when after a fire destroyed part of the work area, along with some of the equipment.

The problem of meeting all demands became more difficult when in January of 45 a part of the battalion moved to the continent with two presses and most of the skilled personnel. Remaining were the two oldest presses, which by this time were badly in need of repair. However the dogged efforts of the men were responsible for continuing to meet and satisfy all operational demands made by the various agencies both of the Ground and Air Forces.

All previous work done in the press trailers was accomplished with two men in each trailer. In civilian shops this might be adequate, but under army conditions it was not sufficient to maintain overall production. Sickness, accidents and a minimum of passes and furloughs kept the press department under strength at all times.

It has been found that the TBA was inadequate in some respects. A first and second echelon spare parts equipment should be on hand for each press van at all times.

Working in press vans is at all times done under trying conditions. Atmospheric control presents the major problem, and is practically impossible to remedy. Thus, damage is done to plates, inks, papers and chemicals, so essential to proper printing qualities. The presses and their essentials should be placed in buildings which lend themselves to humidity control.



## GRAINING SECTION

The satisfactory performance of a zinc plate on the press depends to a great extent upon the preparation it undergoes in the graining operation.

With the original plate graining machine as furnished in the TBA it was possible to process two plates at a time and to secure a fine, even grain by following the formula arrived at by long periods of experimentation.. When the proper graining compounds were obtainable it was a comparatively simple matter to turn out sufficient plates to supply our needs.

When, however, the American machine was sent to the Continent we were faced with the prospect of preparing large quantities of plates on a British machine, which was far slower and much more inefficient than the original one. When practically all the regrained plates were destroyed in the fire, production would have ceased had it not been for the fact that the personnel of this department worked long hours, and used a great deal of ingenuity to produce sufficient plates to keep us in operation.

To add to this problem the supply of abrasives available was curtailed to a great extent, and many modifications had to be made on the British machine to suit it to our purposes.

The two men left in the department not only devised various means of speeding production by substituting materials, but also trained sufficient new personnel so that we were able to continue to operate at a very high degree of efficiency.

Looking back over the production records it may be seen that in spite of the many handicaps that had to be overcome, both in the way of material and equipment, this department has done and are continuing to do a very creditable job and are to be complemented.

When a job is completed and delivered, all plates are returned to reproduction operations where they are either filed or designated for graining according to instructions from Battalion Operations. Plates to be grained are taken by the graining section to their trailer for processing. The plate is placed on a tray-like table which is rotated with an eccentric motion. Actual graining consists of loosening the old image with water and trisodium phosphate, and removing it by the use of an abrasive, aluminum sand. The abrasives also puts a fresh "grain" on the metal which provides a surface of greater area and one more receptive to both ink and water. Steel or glass marbles provide the necessary weight to grind the sand into the plate.

The plate is washed perfectly clean of all residue and dried quickly in a heated cabinet. It is then delivered to the plate room, ready for a new image.

The job is delivered from reproduction to Battalion Operations by an exchange of paperwork and sample copies. The actual job is generally stored in the cutting room until it is ready for delivery to the customer.

Production of the reproduction unit has remained consistently high in spite of difficult operating conditions, continual pressure of rush work, and continual shortage of proper equipment and supplies. In fact it is probably because of these difficulties that the greater production was obtained. The necessity for improvisation often resulted in an improvement in method, both in speed and quality.

## CUTTING SECTION

When the job is completely finished on the press, it is carried to storage vans which are kept as near to even temperature as possible. Time permitting, the freshly printed stock should remain in the van until the ink is perfectly dry. This precaution prevents the ink from smearing or offsetting during the subsequent handling and cutting.

The cutting section transports the job to the cutting room and cuts it to the size or sizes ruled off on a master sample sheet taken from the job. This sheet is marked for cutting, according to the trim marks, by the layout section and at the same time the job is given a final check for accuracy. The trimmed job is then packaged as specified by the customer and marked with the name and number of the job plus any additional information the customer may desire.

Originally the cutting section was equipped with a hand cutter, designed to handle stock up to 24 inches in length. When the Battalion was operating Multilith presses this cutter was adequate, as the paper sizes very rarely exceeded this width. When, however, the Web and Harris Presses were added to the train it was found that this machine was not only too small to handle the necessary stock sizes, but far too slow to supply the demands of the presses which were operating 24 hours a day.

Upon our arrival at Pinetree the Cutting Department was assigned a building and a power cutter was procured and installed. The map paper supplied was 22 x 29 inches, too large to be used without trimming, so each lot had to be cut down before running, both to fit our presses and also to insure accurate register.

All the paper was received from the depot was unloaded and stored in the cutting room as well as the various base maps and damage assessment photographs, which were constantly being re-run on the press. Shelves had to be built and an accurate file of quantities on hand kept.

Due to constant changes in personnel and the difficulty of obtaining men familiar with the operation of a power cutter, a dangerous piece of machinery in the hands of an inexperienced person, the task of the Cutting Section has never been an easy one.

When it is remembered that the stock for each job must be trimmed before the press run, cut to the size and specification of the customer after printing, finally wrapped or packaged upon completion, and that any mistake made in this process would necessitate a complete makeover, it can readily be seen that this section is of the utmost important.

UNIT HISTORY

4 APRIL 44 TO 20 NOVEMBER 1945

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HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 - US ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(from date of activation 4 April 44 to 31 May 44)

The 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion was activated on 4 April 1944 by SO #1 (Annex #1) and assigned the total complement of 27 officers and 491 enlisted men. The Battalion was a consolidation of the 952nd Engineer Topographic Company (Avn), the Drafting Detachment, and the Engineer Aviation Topographic Detachment (Sp), #1. Edward J. Gallagher, Major, CE, Commanding Officer of the Battalion, was assigned on 8 April 44 by SO #37, Hq 8th Ren, Wing (Prov) (Annex#2).

The letter, Hq CBS, SOS, ETOUSA, Subject: Redistribution, Reorganization and Disbandment of the 952nd Engr Avn Topo Co. (Avn) (Annex#3) was the authority bringing to a conclusion the successful career of the 952nd, which had been stationed in England for the past nineteen months and which now formed the nucleus of the battalion. Appropriately, Ray E. Johnson, Capt., CE, CO of the 952nd had been awarded the Legion of Merit by General Spaatz at a ceremony a week before. Sharing the credit for the good work of the 952nd was the Drafting Detachment, consisting of two officers and 58 EM, which had arrived in England in August 1943 and had been working with the 952nd since then.

The third component of the new battalion, the Engineer Aviation Topographic Detachment (Sp), #1, had been formed back in the States for the express purpose of filling out the battalion, which was then being planned. The personnel of the Detachment, 256 EM and 15 officers, was drawn from the 950th and 959th Engineer Topographic Companies, which were then stationed at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma. William S. Shira, then Capt., CE, Commanding Officer of the Detachment and Robert S. Stewart, Capt., CE, was Executive Officer.

The T/O states the mission of the battalion as follows: to work in conjunction with photo reconnaissance aviation in preparing, compiling and reproducing all necessary charting, mapping, target charts; to compile, reproduce, and distribute all mosaics and other map information as may be requested by an Air Force; to plot, index and store the contact prints, to make special contact, enlarged and restituted prints from film taken by photo reconnaissance aviation; the supplementing of all theatre facilities for ground forces in mapping; and model making as directed. The normal assignment is one topographic unit per Air Force. However, it should be noted that the 942nd Battalion actually works for two Air Forces; it is assigned to the 8th Reconnaissance Wing of the 8th Air Force, but it does important work for the 9th Air Force as well. It is the only U.S. Army topographic organization which is now producing work for the U.S.

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

Air Forces in the U.K. Thus, the creation of the 942nd Battalion, coming as it did on the eve of the tremendous allied offensive, invested the battalion with a key role in the impending operations.

The history of the 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn. begun on an already high level attained by the 952nd Engr Topo Co. (Avn) and the broader scope of the new organization and its added responsibilities promised even greater achievements and distinction in the future. The total personnel, at the beginning, fell 40 EM and 3 officers short of the authorized strength of 531 EM and 30 officers. In equipment the Battalion was considerably under strength, especially as regards heavy equipment, such as motor vehicles and reproduction vans. It was the equipment of the disbanded 952nd which started the wheels rolling in the work of the new battalion. The main shortage was in mobile vehicles; about ten of the 68 authorized vehicles were secured from the 952nd. Since then about 24 more vehicles have been added. As for the reproduction equipment, which is of a highly mobile nature, all of the authorized 7-van train and a multi-lith trailer were obtained from the 952nd. Enough drafting equipment and other supplies were on hand to enable the battalion to begin full-scale operations immediately.

Upon the activation of the Battalion, Captain Shira, being the ranking officer present, assumed command until the arrival of Major Gallagher. The latter, a United States Military Academy graduate, had long been associated with the supervision of these aviation topographic units and at the time was Head of Troops Sub-section, Officer of the Engineer, ASC, USSTAF. The major formally assumed command 9 April 44 by SO #3, Hq. 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn. (Annex #4).

The Battalion remained for a while at the old station of the 952nd at Kew Gardens, Surrey. Once the British Claims and Records Building, it was a sprawling; one-story brick building which contained the billet area, work rooms, offices, mess hall, day room and NAAFI, all under one roof. With the arrival of Detachment #1 on 14 March, the space available was insufficient to quarter all the troops comfortably, but temporary adjustments were made to take care of the situation until such time as a change of station could be effected.

Under the new battalion set-up there were to be three companies--Co. A, Drafting; Co. B, Reproduction; and a Headquarters Company - a Battalion Operations unit, 2 Photo-Library sections and 2 Map Depot sections. Capt Shira was made Executive Officer; Capt. Stewart, Plans and Training Officer (S-3), Capt. Johnson, Supply Officer (S-4); and 2nd Lt. Donald E. Greene, Adjutant and Personnel Officer (S-1). The following Company Commanders were appointed: Co. A: Vernon C. Elmore, 1st Lt., CE; Co. B: Frank M. Marson, 1st Lt., CE; Hq & H & S Co: John

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

B. Moore, 1st Lt., CE. M/Sgt Burton E. Lowy was made Sergeant Major and F/Sgt John E. Compton, T/Sgt Raymond D. Hadfield and F/Sgt. Leo W. Ware were made 1st Sergeants of Cos. A, B, and Hq. & Hw & S. respectively.

Since the three consolidated units had been working and billeting together during the previous few weeks, there was no radical interruption in the reorganization and work proceeded as usual. The reorganization caused no surprises or general transfer as the officers and EM almost without exception were placed in similar jobs in the new organization. The organization of the new Battalion had been rumored and discussed for some time previously and most of the personnel had knowledge of their new status before the order was published.

The deactivation, redesignation and reassignment of any unit has its disadvantages in a temporary loss of "esprit de corps" and some loss of time in administrative reorganization, an this instance was no exception. However, most officers and EM benefited by a chance for promotion or being assigned to a job that past experience had proven they were best qualified for, or preferred.

The personnel of the Engr Avn Topo Det (Sp), #1, having arrived in the ETO only a few weeks prior to this consolidating, were most fortunate in having the guidance and friendship of the other two units extended to them during both work and after duty hours. Having been stationed in district I, CES for periods of sixteen and eight months respectively, the 952nd and Drafting Detachment were well acquainted with the entire picture of the working requirements and contacts for administration and supply. It may also be stated that they were well acquainted with the social contacts, consequently helping the new-comers to enjoy their first experience in this theatre.

The enviable record built up by the older units furnished an excellent inspiration, and conversely the new personnel and reorganization was a "shot in the arm" to the older units to demonstrate their experience and knowledge.

During the month of April no change in the type or work was experience or contemplated. The addition of personnel in all departments naturally led to an expected increase in production. This increase was accomplished and certainly will improve further when organization becomes more stable. The total jobs completed during the month numbered 107, representing an average increase of approximately 25 per cent over the previous production of the 952nd and Drafting Detachment. This increase is reflected by the attached graph (Annex#5), showing the total jobs on hand each day during April in the Drafting and Reproduction companies. There is also a graph showing combination of jobs in these two companies which represents the total jobs in progress on any day during the



## UNIT HISTORY (Cont 'd)

current month.

The 952nd, having previously been assigned to the 8th Ren Wing (Prov), the newly formed Battalion was ordered to move to AAF Station 101 on or about 15 April 1944. It was at this time that the Battalion lost two map Depots consisting of 2 officers and 27 EM on TD (later DS) to the 9th Air Force. The Battalion move was made by truck convoy, and the actual production of work was interrupted only for a period of about two days, as reflected by the attached graph. New demountable type buildings had been prepared at the new station, and by moving surplus equipment prior and subsequent to movement of main body of personnel and reproduction vans, a minimum of time loss was obtained. Actually, operation of presses in reproduction vans was suspended only from Saturday night 15, April, to 1600 Sunday 16 April.

The new camp was located in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, about 20 miles from Kew Gardens. Unlike the living conditions at the old post, which had been completely indoors, the battalion found the day's round of activities spread over a great distance. The entire personnel was billeted in tents, which for most of the men was their first experience in living under canvas.

A military training program of four hours per week was carried out the first half of the month, but this schedule was reduced at the new station. This training emphasized air raid precautions with the handling of incendiary and anti-personnel bombs receiving the major emphasis. Eight hours were devoted to demonstration and practice in dealing with booby traps and mines given by the 901st Engineer Headquarters Company. This provided to be a very interesting and instructive demonstration and much comment and enthusiasm was aroused.

At the new station the daily calisthenics were dispensed with since each man in the organization makes at least two round trips by foot from the billet area to work area, which amount to approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles walking plus 600 feet total change in elevation. However in spite of the various tasks entailed in getting things in order around both the billets and work areas, instruction courses were held in several military subjects and regular weekly arms and billets inspections were carried out. On Saturday morning 28 April, the entire Battalion was reviewed by Colonel Roosevelt.

The end of the month came with a retrospect of more work accomplished, a reorganization having taken place, the leaving of old and finding of new accomplishments next month.

Expectations were fulfilled during the month of May. Brightest features of the month were two very gratifying letters of commendation. Both were personally sent by Maj. Gen. C.R. Moore (Annex#6) praised the Battalion "for the splendid

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

assistance it has given to this office in our map production and in our reproduction problems". The second dated 29 May (Annex #7) commends the technical skill of the battalion which "has impressed all concerned and has helped to prove some of the outstanding capabilities of our topographic units". This letter was indorsed by the Commanding General, 8th Air Force, and by Col. Elliott Roosevelt.

During the month two men, Tec 5 John J. Bozicevich and Tec 5 Michael P. Tessuro, who had been on DS to the 3rd Bombardment Division, 8th Air Force, also received high commendation upon their return to this unit.

Production continued to rise sharply in May. The weekly reports, from 30 April to 3 June 44, inclusive, show a total of 377 jobs completed, an increase of over three times the figure for the previous month.

The list of customers served and the type of work turned out added to the Battalion's impressive record. Besides the 8th and 9th Air Forces, the British air Ministry, Air Transport Command and USSTAF were among the important agencies on the Battalion's production list. The 942nd was prepared to handle any type of mapping work it was called upon to do.

The range of the work was considerable--airfield maps, tactical target over-lays, navigation charts, operational maps kept rolling off the presses in a steady stream. (A more complete description of the nature of the work is attached--Annex#8).

On 3 May, Frank J. Tarcza, 1st Lt., CE, and five EM left for Northern Ireland to attend an anti-aircraft school conducted by the 8th Air Force. It was a 10 day course and was devoted primarily to the operation of the 50-caliber AA machine gun. Two weeks later Wayne W. Mayfield, 2nd Lt., CE and two EM left to take similar training.

Good Conduct Ribbons began to flourish conspicuously on OD blouses after a mass award of these ribbons to 130 men about the middle of the month.

Only two significant changes in personnel occurred during May. 2nd Lt. Monty P. Greene left at the beginning of the month for the Airborne Engineers. Vance M. Rothrock, Capt., MC, was assigned to the medical detachment of the Battalion some weeks later. Only one EM of the authorized eight man medical detachment has as yet been assigned.

The month of May came to an end as the terrific allied air offensive hammered even more relentlessly the European mainland in the final pre-invasion attacks. In their drafting rooms and

UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

behind their presses, the men of the 942nd Battalion, working 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, were turning out maps to show the bombers and fighters the way.

Included is the master training schedule for the months of April, May and June 1944 (Annex#9). Also included is the production graph for the month of May 1944 (Annex #10).

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

942nd ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
DISTRICT 1 CBS, Q.S., LT USA

4 April, 1944

SPECIAL ORDER )  
:  
NUMBER.....1)

1. Activation of 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion. The activation of the 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion as of 1201 A.M., 4 April, 1944, with station at District I, CBS, SOS, ETOUSA is announced.

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

2. Assumption of command: The undersigned hereby assumes command.

3. Appointment of staff: The following appointments to the staff this headquarters are announced:

a. Plans and Training Officer (S-3), CAPTAIN ROBERT S. STEWART, 0-251067, CE, 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion.

b. Supply Officer (S-4), CAPTAIN RAY E. JOHNSON, 0-293097, CE, 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion.

c. Adjutant and personnel officer, (S-1). 2nd LIEUTENANT DONALD E. GREENE, 0-11055472, CE, 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion.

4. Appointment of Company Commanders:

a. Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company, 1st LIEUTENANT JOHN E. MOORE 0-4102877, 05, 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion

b. Company A: 1st LIEUTENANT VERNON C. ELMORE 0-1102230 CE, 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion.

c. Company B: 1st LIEUTENANT FRANK M MARSON, 0-322670 CE, 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion.

5. Assignment of Personnel:

a. The officers and enlisted men of roster (Annex "A") are assigned Headquarters & Headquarters & Service Company.

b. The officers and enlisted men on roster (Annex "B") are assigned Company A.

c. The officers and enlisted men on roster (Annex "C") are assigned Company B.

(Annex#1)

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

SO #1, Hq 942nd Engr. Avn. Topo. Bn., 4 April, 1944

continued

6. Composition of Companies: Under T/O & E 5-400, 1 November 1943, and T/O & E 5-500, 31 July, 1943 with changes 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7.

a. Headquarters and Headquarters and Services Company:

No of Units	T/O	Unit Designated	Strength	
			Off	EM
1	3-AA	Bn Hqs Engr Avn Topo Bn	5	12
1	4-AB	Hq Plat Hq & Serv Co Topo Bn	2	14
1	8-AF	Operations Section, Topo Co or Bn	2	21
2	10-AH	Photo Library Seat Topo Co or Bn	2	58
1	16-AN	Trans Plat Hq & Hq & Serv Co Topo Bn	1	21
1	17-AO	Mess Team Type #1-30 to 100 men	0	3
2	18-AP	Mess Team Type #2-101 to 175 men	0	10
1	19-AQ	Mess Team Type #3-176 to 225 men	0	7
2	16-CA	Map Depot Detachment	2	24

b. Company A

1	5-AC	Hq Plot Photo Map Co, Topo Bn Company A	2	19
2	11-A1	Photo Map Plat Type #1 Engr Avn Topo Co	4	172

c. Company B

1	6-AD	Plat Repro Co Topo Bn Company B	2	21
1	13-AK	Repro Plat Type #1 Engr Avn Topo Co	2	75
2	9-4G	Photo Printing Section Topo Co or Battalion	2	30

WILLIAM S SHIRA,  
Captain, C.E.  
Commanding.

DISTRIBUTION:

2-OCE, Hq ETOUSA  
2-CG USSTAF  
2-CG 8th AF  
2-CO 8th Ren.  
2-CO Dist I, SOS, CBS  
5-Ea Company  
2-Ea 0 concerned  
4-File

Annex#1 (Cont'd)

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
8TH RECONNAISSANCE WING (PROV)  
APO 634

SPECIAL ORDERS)  
:  
NUMBER.....37

8 April, 1944

E X T R A C T

\* \* \* \* \*

2. MAJOR EDWARD J. GALLAGHER, 0221775, CE, having reported to this Hq, 5 April, 1944, in compliance with par 1, SO #66, Hq ASC, USSTAF, 25 March, 1944, is asgn to the 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn, AAF Sta 586. SP. TCNT. TDN.

\* \* \* \* \*

By order of Colonel ROOSEVELT:

W.H. CLEVELAND  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ M.E. Trimble,  
/t/ M.E. TRIMBLE  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

DIST: "B"

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
2nd Lt., C.E.  
Adjutant

R E S T R I C T E D

(Annex #2)

S E C R E T  
HEADQUARTERS  
 CENTRAL BASE SECTION  
 SOS ETOUSA

SECRET  
 Auth: Co,  
 Initial:  
 Date: 1 Apr 44

AG 322 Ops

1 April 1944

SUBJECT: Redesignation, Reorganization, and Disbandment of the 952nd Engineer Topographic Co. Aviation (Sp).

TO : Commanding Officer, 952nd Engineer Topographic Co. Aviation (Sp),

1. Pursuant to authority contained in , 20 322 (10 Mar 44) OB-I-ARPS-M, dated 20 March 1944, and 1 st Indorsement, AG 322 OP, Hq, ETOUSA, Subject: "Redesignation, Reorganization , and Disbandment of Certain Engineer Aviation Units," the 952nd Engineer Topographic Co. Aviation (Sp) is redesignated as the 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion and will be reorganized and equipped under T/O & E as indicated:

Under T/O & E 5-400, 1 November 1943:

Number of Units	T/O Column	Unit Designation	Strength	
			Off	EM
1	3-AA	Battalion headquarters, engineer aviation topographic battalion	8	12
1	4-AB	Headquarters platoon, headquarters and service company topographic battalion	2	14
1	5-AC	Headquarters platoon, photomapping company topographic battalion, Company "A"	2	10
1	6-AD	Headquarters platoon, reproduction company topographic battalion, Company "B"	2	19
1	8-AF	Operations section, topographic company or battalion	2	21
2	9-AG	Photoprinting section, topographic company or battalion	2	30
2	10-AH	Photolibrary section, topographic company or battalion	2	62
2	11-AI	Photomapping platoon, type 1, engineer aviation topographic company	4	172
1	13-XX	Reproduction platoon, type 1, engineer aviation topographic company	2	70
1	14-AL	Reproduction platoon, type 2, engineer aviation topographic company	2	38
1	13-AN	Transportation platoon headquarters and service company topographic battalion	1	21
1	17-AO	Mess team, type No. 1, 30 to 100 men	-	3
2	18-AP	Mess team, type No. 2, 101 to 175 men	-	10
1	19 AQ	Mess team, type No. 3, 176 to 225 men	-	7
2	18-CA	Map deport detachment	2	24

(Annex#3)

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Ltr. AO 322, Ops, Hq, CBS, 1 Apr 1944.

Page 2

Under T/O & E 5-500, 31 July 1943, with Change  
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

plus an attached Medical Detachment consisting of the following:

	<u>Total</u>		
Captain, Medical Corp	1	Medical technician(409)	(2)
Captain, Dental Corps	1	Surgical technician(361)	(1)
Total commissioned	<u>2</u>	Private, first class	2
		Private including	
Staff Sergeant, including	1	Ambulance drive(099)	(1)
Medical NCO(073)	(1)	Clerk(601)	(1)
Corporal, including	1	Total enlisted	<u>8</u>
Medical NCO(073)	(1)		
Technician Fifth Grade, including 4			
Dental technician(006)	(1)	Aggregate.....	10

2. The attached Medical Detachment will be equipped in accordance with a Special List of Equipment to be prepared by the Commanding General, Army Air Forces (Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Material, Maintenance and Distribution, Air Engineer) copies of which will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Army Service Forces (Mobilization Division, Organization, and Allowances Branch) for publication and distribution to all concerned, including the unit.

3. The total authorized strength of this battalion will be thirty (30) officers and five hundred thirty-one (531) enlisted men, including two (2) officers and eight (8) enlisted men, attached medical.

4. Concurrently with reorganization of the 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion, the Engineer Aviation Topographic Detachment, Special, -1, will be disbanded, and personnel and equipment thereof absorbed to the extent practicable in the reorganized unit.

5. Personnel and equipment not available to you will be requisitioned in the normal manner.

6. The appropriate allotments published in Sec VI, Cir No 129, WD, 1 June 1943, will be obligated to the extent necessary.

7. Rosters and reports of change as required by AR 345-980 and AR S45-800 will be submitted to the CO, SOS ETOUSA, APO 871, for 91st MRU.

Annex#3 (Cont'd)



S E C R E T

8. Confirmation of redesignation and date of reorganization will be reported to this Headquarters without delay.

By command of Brigadier General ROGERS

DISTRIBUTION: "E" plus

5 Addressee	THOMAS J. BELL, Jr.
28 CG, ETOUSA	Captain, AGD
2 CO, WBS, SOS, APO 515	Assistant Adjutant General
2 CO, EBS, SOS, APO 517	
2 CG, SBS, SOS, APO 519	
2 CG, NIBS, SOS, APO 813	2 91st MRU, SOS, APO 871
2 CG, USSTAF, APO 535	2 Chief of Trans, ETOUSA
2 CG, 8th AIR FORCE, APO 634	4 File
2 CO, District I, APO 887	

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
2nd Lt., C.E.  
Adjutant

Annex#3 (Cont'd)

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

HEADQUARTERS  
942nd ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
DISTRICT I, CBS, SOS, ETOUSA

9 April 1944

SPECIAL ORDER )

Number 3)

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

1. Major EDWARD J. GALLAGHER, CE 021775, having been assigned per Par 2 SO 37, hdqtrs 8th Reconnaissance Wing (Prov), dated 8 April 1944, assumes command.
2. Captain WILLIAM S. SHIRA, CE, 0-379794, is relieved as Commanding Officer and is appointed Executive Officer.
3. SO No. 1, this headquarters is amended as follows:

<u>No. of Units</u>	<u>Par 6c Company. add:</u>		<u>Strength</u>	
	<u>T/O</u>	<u>Unit Designation</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>EM</u>
c. Company B				
1	14-AL	Repto. Type #2 Engr Avn Topo Co	2	38

Annex A

The serial number of 2nd Lt WILLIAM H. LYON, CE, is amended to read "2nd Lt WILLIAM H. LYON, CE. 0-1103288"

EDWARD J. GALLGHER,  
Major. C.E.,  
Commanding.

DISTRIBUTION

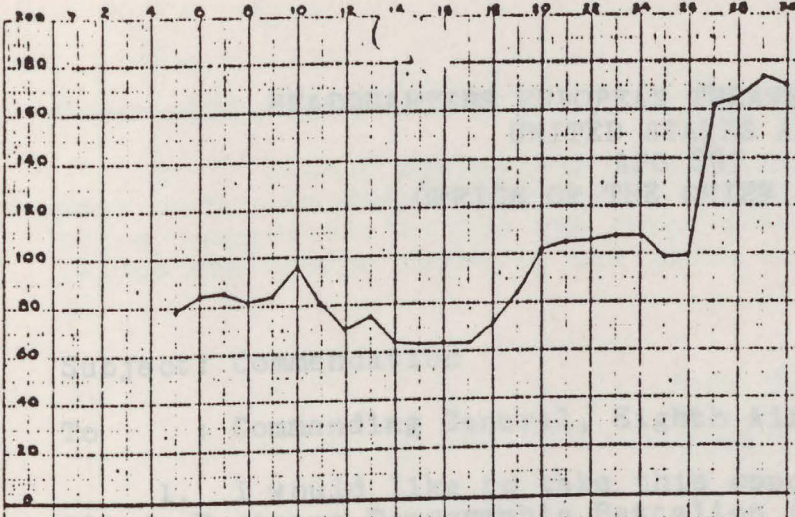
2-CCE, Hq ETOUSA  
2-CG, USSTAF  
2-CG 8th AF  
2-CO Dist I, SOS, CBS  
5-Ea. Company  
2-Ea. O Company  
4-File

(Annex #4)

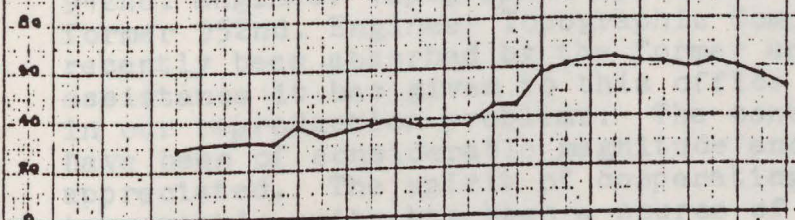
APRIL 44 - JOBS & DISTRIBUTION

942nd Engr. Avn. Topo. Bn

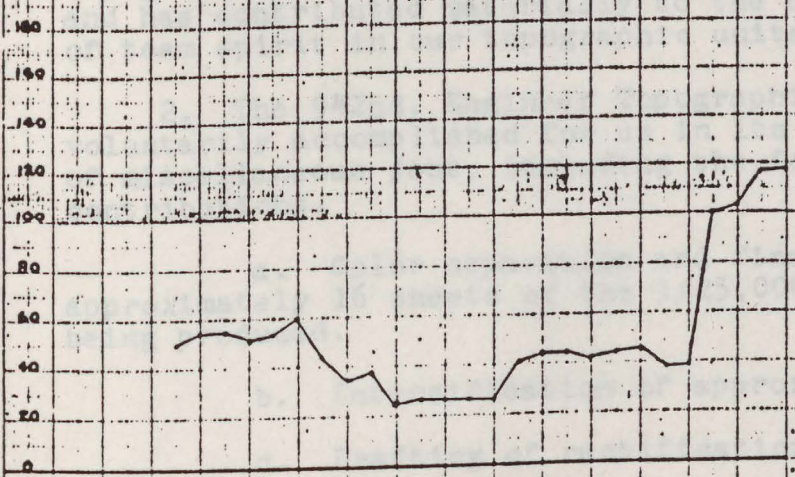
TOTAL JOBS IN BN



JOBS IN DRAFTING



JOBS IN REPRODUCTION



HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
APO 887  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

Our Ref: A/8  
18 May 44

Subject: Commendation

To : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, U.S. Army, APO 663

1. I would like to take this opportunity of commending the 942nd. Engineer Topographic Battalion (Avn) had especially the former 952nd. Engineer Topographic Company (Avn), which has recently been absorbed by the former unit, for the splendid assistance it has given to this office in our map production and in our reproduction problems. The contributions voluntarily made have been of considerable magnitude and have been sincerely appreciated. The spirit of cooperating we have found in your topographic units has been a source of great satisfaction to me and has contributed materially to the development of a keen sense of team spirit in our topographic units.

2. The 942nd. Engineer Topographic Battalion (Avn) has voluntarily accomplished for us in its spare time a large number of miscellaneous jobs, including the following major contributions.

- a. Color separation and final drafting of approximately 16 sheets of the 1/25,000 scale map series now being produced.
- b. Intensification of approximately 80 photo-maps.
- c. Drafting of rectification charts, etc.
- d. Preparation of trig data overlays
- e. Reproduction of miscellaneous maps, forms, posters, charts, etc.
- f. Loan of technical equipment and supplies in emergencies.
- g. Reproduction of mosaics, photographs and technical booklets.

3. Some of the jobs undertaken have had to be accomplished under close deadlines and I am particularly pleased with the splendid spirit shown in tackling difficult assignments on short notice. The technical proficiency of the personnel has also been gratifying.

(Annex #6)

Commanding General, Eighth Air Force.

18 May 44

4. I should appreciate it very much if you could see fit to pass on to the 942nd. Engineer Topographic Battalion ( Avn) my sincere appreciation for the cooperative spirit shown and for the valued assistance which it has given to this office.

C.R. MOORE  
Major General U.S. Army  
Chief Engineer

HM/hc

Annex # 6 (Cont'd)

HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
APO 887  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

Our ref: D/4

29 May 44

Subject: Commendation

To: Commanding Officer, 942nd Engineer Topographic Co. (Avn)  
APO 634, Station 101. U.S. Army.

1. The contribution which your organization has made to the program of town plan production is very much appreciated. Your assistance has made it possible for us to provide for all forces in this theater a larger number of town plans than otherwise could have been prepared in the time available.

2. The technical skill you have shown in this work has impressed all concerned and has helped to prove some of the outstanding capabilities of our topographic units. You will soon be confronted with still more difficult problems to be solved under more trying conditions. I have utmost confidence that you will acquit yourselves well and prove to the satisfaction of your commanding officers in the field that you can provide them invaluable service of a high technical order.

3. I should appreciate it very much if you would pass on to your officers and men my sincere appreciation for their contributions in this program and my best wishes for the future.

For the Chief Engineer,

H. MILWIT,  
Colonel, C.E.  
Chief, Intelligence Division.

HM/jr

(Annex #7)

1st Ind

C-S-2

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, AAF STATION 101, APO 634

29 May 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 8th Reconnaissance Wing (Prov), APO 634

The Commanding General wishes to add his express of appreciation for the splendid assistance and cooperation rendered by the personnel of the 942nd Engineer Topographic Battalion (Avn) (formerly the 952nd Engineer Topographic Company (Avn)), on this occasion. The voluntary efforts of both officers and enlisted men contributed materially to our common cause.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

EDWARD E. TORO  
Colonel, A.G.D.  
Adjutant General

2nd Ind

A-ER-hb

HEADQUARTERS 8TH RECONNAISSANCE WING, APO 634

1 June 1944

TO; Commanding Officer, 942nd Engineer Topographic Bn. (Avn),  
APO 634.

The receipt of this commendation is very gratifying and it gives me considerable pleasure to pass this on to you. The fine services rendered by your organization to the office of the Chief Engineer, ETOUSA, and to all other organization with which you have had contact, have enhanced your organization's reputation, and are contributing in no small manner to our general effort.

ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Commanding.

Annex # 7 (Cont'd)

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 - US ARMY

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

ARMY MINISTRY (A.I. 2(b)).

Airfield Maps -- Production of these maps, which was commenced by 952nd has continued since activation of the Bn. They usually consist of 2 charts per sheet, the top showing area and surroundings of the airfield and bottom, the airfield diagram.

Operational Air Maps -- showing airfields, by type, on whole countries or continents, have also been reproduced for this customer.

Airfield Maps are 1 color (black) jobs while Operational Air Maps usually have 3 colors.

Some of these maps and diagrams have been drawn by us (about 40% and the remainder by Air Ministry.

AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND

Airfield Maps -- These maps are a continuation of the work done by the 952nd, just as those done for Air Ministry. The fronts closely resemble the above maps with the exception that they are three-color jobs (red, blue and black). Most of them carry back-ups as well. The back-ups are charts showing landing procedure for the airfield.

No drafting is done by this unit on these maps.

UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL AIR FORCE

Airfield Defense (Flak) -- a monthly overlay showing flak belts on the continent. Reproduced on a 2 color (black and blue) base map in 2 additional colors (red and green). The whole job, including base maps, are reproduced by the organization.

These jobs require drafting and reproduction.

EIGHTH AIR FORCE

Special Air Navigation -- Maps to aid Navigation on raids on the continent of Europe as well as flying over Britain. 4 color jobs, (blue, brown, halftone brown and black). This is a large series and as quickly as one edition is printed, revisions are started in drafting.

Drafting and reproduction.

(Annex #8)



DESCRIPTION OF WORK cont'd

NINTH AIR FORCE

Tactical Target Overlays -- Printed on Vellum paper and used in conjunction with G.S.G.S. Maps of corresponding area. One color only (black).

Drafting and reproduction.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bensen Series, Photo/Bombardier, Photo Maps, Weather Maps, Railroad, Trig Data and innumerable other maps and charts, some of which were printed by 952nd, while others have only been handled by 942nd.

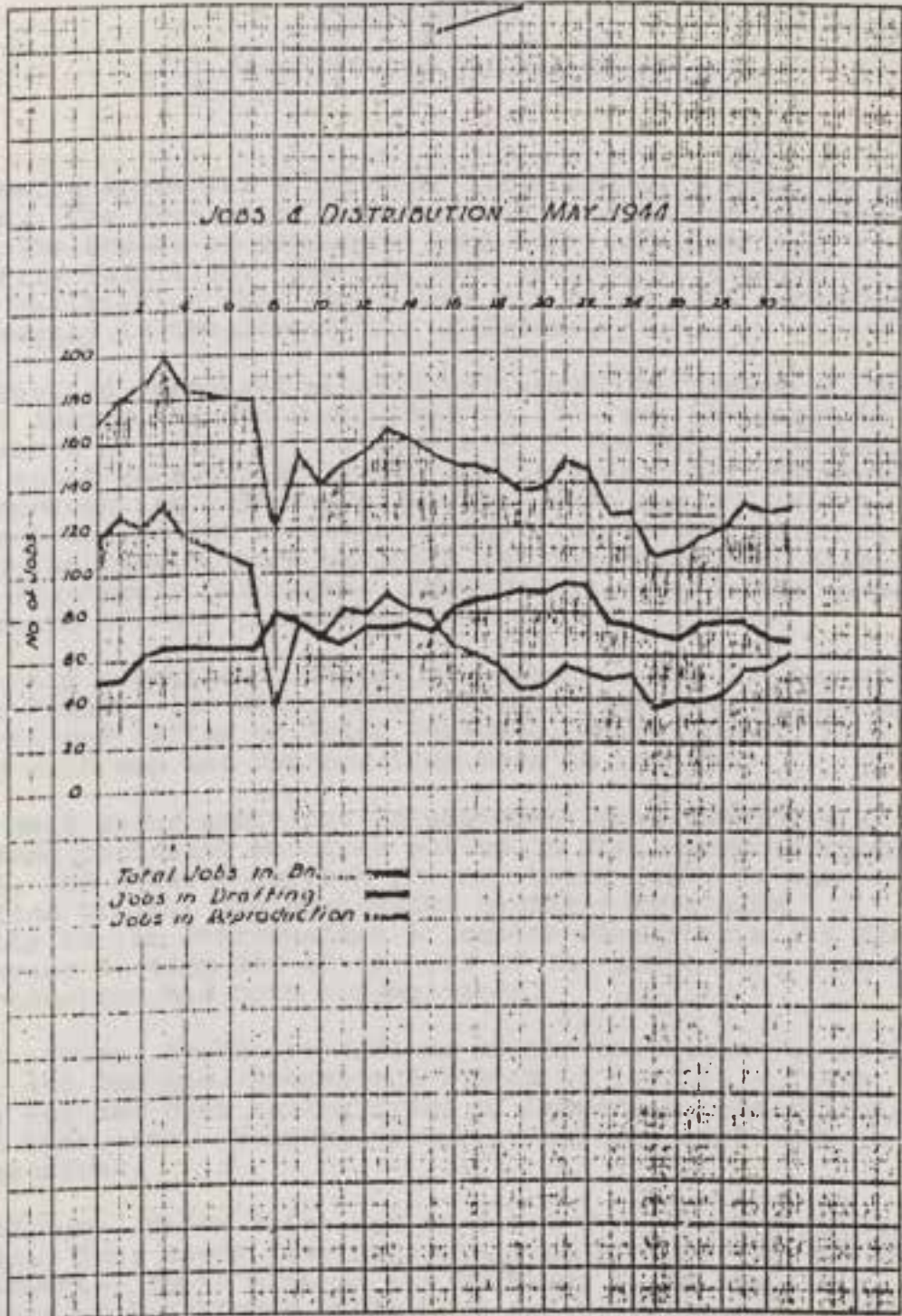
Annex #8 (Cont'd)

942nd Engr. Aviation Topo Battalion

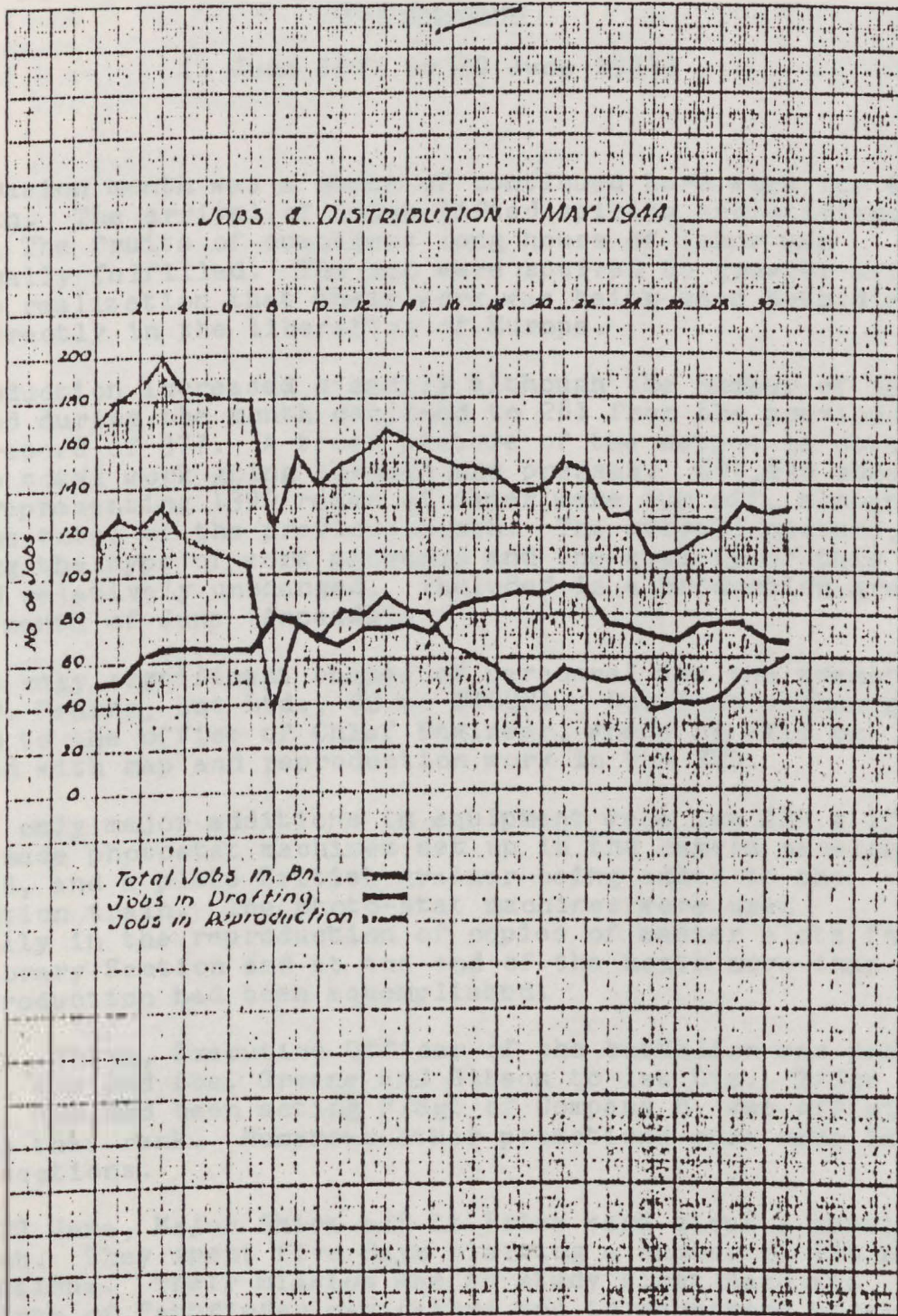
SUBJECT	TEXT REFERENCE	TOTAL HOURS	PERIOD 10 APRIL, 1944 TO 30 JUNE 1944											
			HOURS PER WEEK											
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Army Talks	"Army Talks"	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Physical Training	TM 3, Hq Dist 1, CBS, 1943 FM 21-10; 21-20; 100-5	5		2						2				1
Camouflage	FM 21-45; FM 5-20 FM 5-21; TM 5-267	6				1	3	2						
Marches	FM 21-10; FM 100-5	6			3						3			
Gas Defense	TC 27, 51 & 80, WD 1943 FM 21-40	1										1		
Close Order Drill and Manual of Arms	FM 22-5	4	1			1					1	1	1	
Weapons Training	FM 23-5; FM 23-7 FM 23-35; FM 23-40	6				1			1			2		2
Extended Order Drill	FM 22-5	2							1					1
Scouting & Patrolling	FM 21-45	2									1			1
Military Courtesy and Discipline	FM 21-50; FM 21-100	1		1										1
Sex Hygiene														
Map Reading (Road Maps)	21-35 Engr. & Map Set FM 21-25; 21-26; 21-30	2	1	1										
Security Lecture														
Primary Mission and Technical Training		26											44	44
Total			48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48

(Annex#9)

JOB S & DISTRIBUTION MAY 1944



(Annex #10)



(Annex #10)

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 - US ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(1 June 1944 to 30 June 1944)

Invasion month was a month of continued hard work for the battalion. The arrival of D-Day lifted spirits and stiffened morale. The fruits of countless long hours of labor was dramatically fulfilled. The men were spurred to greater efforts with the realization that their work was being used both directly and indirectly in the liberation of Europe.

Production increased steadily although the number of jobs completed during the month declined to 281 from the previous months record of 377. A truer picture of the output is obtained from the total work going through the presses. 694,840 sheets of paper, representing 1390 reams of paper were run off, almost twice the total of the previous month. The overall picture, regarding the type of work produced and the quality of this work remained relatively unchanged. Included is a production graph for the month of June (Annex#1).

The only significant change of personnel was the transfer of Edward F. Franke, 1st Lt., CE to ETOUSA. Our best wishes go with him to the office of Chief Engineer, where he will be concerned with map and reproduction work in the ETO.

The only major additions in equipment were two 13" x 17" British made photostat machines set up in the camera section of Company B, and a plate British grainer being added to the reproduction train. The photo-stat machines were used principally in the reproduction of copies of master plots for Photo Library Section and at the end of the month more than 8000 such reproduction had been accomplished.

Capt. Shira, Executive Officer of the battalion was promoted to Major, and 2nd Lts. Greene and Gibson to 1st Lts. T/Sgt Hadfield, who had been acting F/Sgt of Company B, was officially raised to that rank. Numerous other promotions were made in various sections.

On 22 June, Major Shira and Lt Price were given a special assignment. They spent five days visiting a number of 8th Air Force Stations. Their mission was to study first hand the requirements of Pathfinder navigators and to recommend possible improvements in the maps we are now producing.

More men were sent to the AA Machine Gun School, 2nd Lt William P. Rosenthal, and 9 enlisted men went to Northern Ireland

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

to attend the school during the month. Two groups of men were sent to waterproofing schools. The first group, 1st Lt Glenn L. Anderson and 8 enlisted men left here for Great Barrington, where they remained for four days. A few days later 2nd Lt William H. Lyon and 9 enlisted men left to take a similar course at RAF Station, Weetan, Lancashire.

All Springfield rifles and L-1 Garands were called in, and in most cases replaced by carbines, the weapon in general used throughout the battalion. The other type of gun in use is the Thompson Sub-Machine gun. Thus, only automatic and semi-automatic guns are now in use in the batalion.

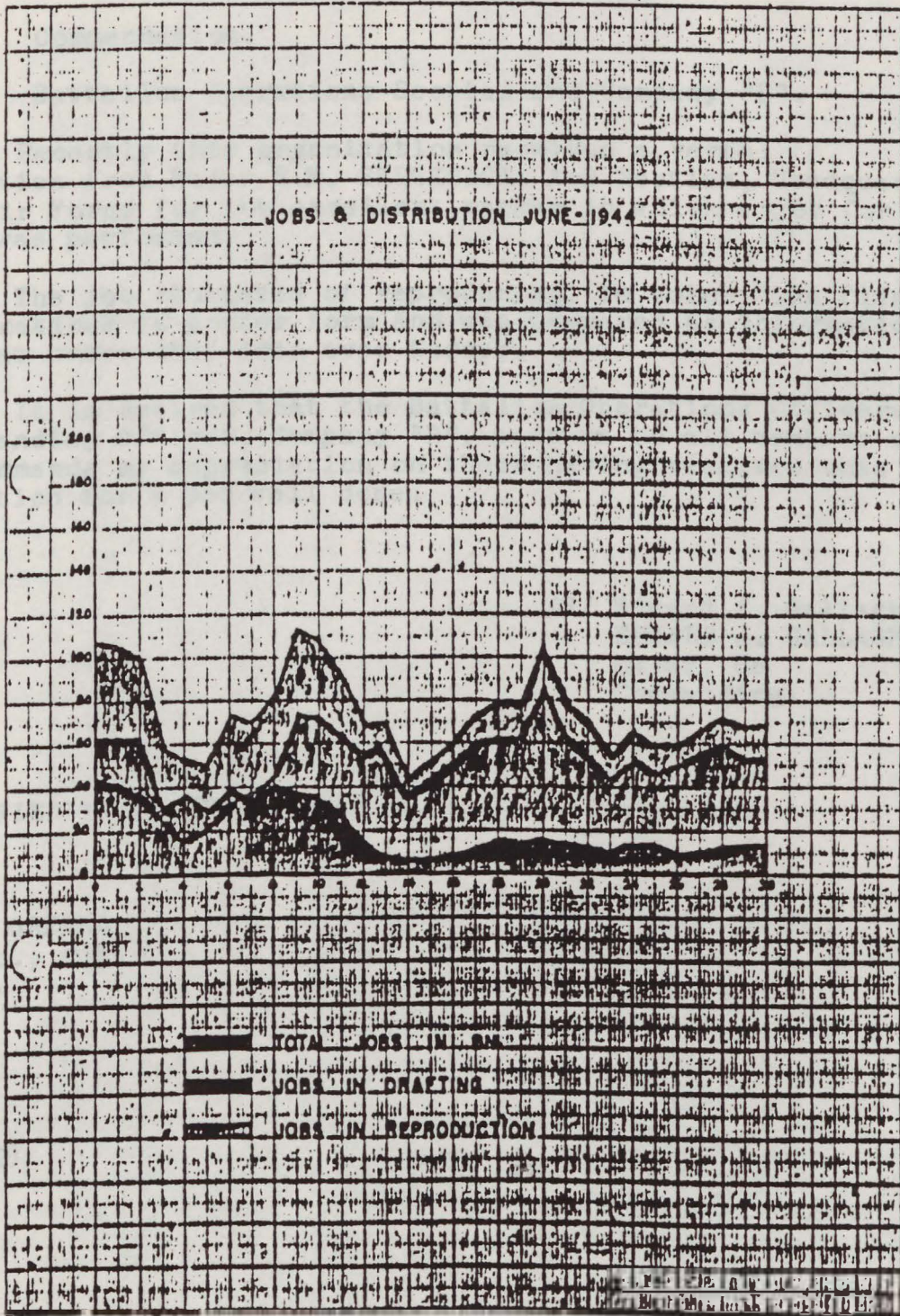
Coincident with the issue of new weapons, firing for record began on a nearby 1000-inch range. About half the battalion has now completed firing. All personnel, regardless of the weapon they were issued, are firing the carbine.

An outdoor athletic program began to flourish with the advent of warmer weather. Baseball dominated the sports picture as the 942nd came up with a crack ball team. With Sgt Margin A. Kennedy as manager, the Battalion nine defeated every team on the post by lop-sided scores. This same aggregation, with the addition of three men from other outfits in the 8th Reconnaissance Wing, also represented the Wing and hung up a very good record against outside opponents in preparation for the opening of the 8th Air Force League. An intra-platoon softball league was started, and trackmen began limbering up for coming meets.

The 942nd "Swingsters", a 6-man band which had been organized by Tec 5 Bernard Brezosky, also achieved wide recognition, and now officially represents the 8th Reconnaissance Wing. The band, led by Tec 3 Arthur Stilwell, plays for 11 post dances, and has many engagements on the outside.

On the last day of the month a verbal commendation was received for Battalion Operations and Company B from Major R.M. Sedgwick, A-2 Section, Headquarters, Eight Air Force, for the excellent manner in which a job for the A-2 Section was performed. (Annex #2)

JOBS & DISTRIBUTION JUNE 1944



(Annex #1)

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

EJG/age

30 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Battalion Operations Section and Company "B".

1. Recently this organization received a verbal commendation from Major R.M. SEDGEWICK, A-2 Section, Headquarters Eighth Air Force for the excellent manner in which a job for A-2 Section was performed.

2. The job consisted of reproducing, in color, the flags of certain nations in poster form and was prepared as information for combat crews shot down over Europe.

3. It is desired that the Battalion Operations Officers and the Commanding Officer, Company "B", pass on to all members of their commands my appreciation on their having received this commendation for a job well done.

/S/ Edward J. Gallagher  
EDWARD J. GALLAGHER  
Major, CE  
Commanding.

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

(Annex #2)



HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 - U. S. ARMY

UNIT HISTORY  
(1 July 1944 TO 31 July 1944)

The 942nd was growing in importance to the war effort and recognition of its achievements kept growing apace. As testimony of this, a brilliant citation was received on 28 July from Hq, 8th Reconnaissance Wing, covering the period of May and June 1944 (Annex #1).

Issued as a general order by Colonel Roosevelt, it cited the 942nd "for extraordinary achievement and outstanding performance of duty in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States." It mentioned the fact that, although operating about twelve per cent understrength, the battalion, upon receiving rush assignments, including projects of highest priority and military value, completed every one on or ahead of schedule, the accomplishment of which required working efficiently, enthusiastically and over and above the normal line of duty. Special assignments requiring work on a continuous three-shift basis and an important D-Day project which had necessitated continuous work for thirty hours were noted, as was the exceptional production figures for the two-month period of 1 May 1944 to 30 June 1944 of 2,015 negatives, 373 contact prints, 1,260 plates, 1,988,359 impressions and 1,490,288 copies. The citation ended with the following: "the devotion to duty, morale, production technique and efficiency displayed by the 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion reflects the highest credit on the organization and the military service of the United States". This unusually laudatory document filled us all with pride and was most gratifying to every member of this organization.

Earlier in the month a verbal commendation had been received for Battalion Operations Section and Company "A" from Major David Brooks, A-3 Progress, and Colonel William H. Cleveland, Chief of Staff, 8th Reconnaissance Wing, for the excellent manner in which a job for the Third Bomb Division was performed (Annex #2).

During the month of July a new high of 412 jobs completed was attained. In every department the output continued to rise to new peaks. Over a million copies and nearly a million impressions were produced. The total of 479 contact prints was more than a hundred greater than the combined total for the two previous months, the period for which we had been cited for an exceptional record. Included is a production graph for the month of July (Annex #3).

As mentioned in the citation, the battalion remained considerably understrength. Reproduction bore the brunt of this shortage; in order to maintain full productive capacity of the

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

available presses it was necessary to work longer hours and with less personnel than authorized by the T/O. This is representative shown by the fact that 16 qualified men operated four presses continuously when the T/O called for 24 such operators. Full 24 hour operation of four presses such as was accomplished during June and July would normally call for 28 such qualified operators. Equipment in general was as authorized plus two photostat machines, all being operated on 24 hour basis by existing personnel.

Work demands changed, new types of jobs came in, immediate requirements of the war machine had to be met. The 942nd, achieving a remarkable fluidity of organization, encountered little difficulty in readjusting techniques, converting personnel and adapting new methods.

Mosaic-making for Ground Forces in Normandy on a large scale was one of the new problems encountered during the month. The first of these jobs came in on 26 June; many more have come in since then and at this writing, it seems that it will be a permanent feature of our work in this theater. Among the personnel were many men well trained in this field and this was their first real opportunity of working in their speciality. The newly formed mosaic section consists of 28 men who have been selected from the drafting platoons. Three shifts work on a 24 hour basis. All jobs are of high priority. Among the customers served are the 8th Reconnaissance Wing, the Third Army, the First Army and the Air Transport Command.

Another relatively new type of job was the town plans. Three of these--Prague, Danzig and Stettin--were in production during the month for the Office of Chief Engineer. These jobs require a great deal of work by the drafting sections since all existing maps have to be revised according to the latest photographs. In addition governmental administrative maps of enemy and occupied territories were produced for the Office of Strategic Services.

Besides the drafting and reproduction sections, mention should be made of the work of a complete and separate section, namely Photo-Library. This section has set up and operated a complete branch library for the use of the 8th Reconnaissance Wing P.I.D. The section accomplished the tracing, indexing, filing of all photo sorties used by the 8th Reconnaissance Wing P.I.D. and the maintenance of a sufficient map storage to meet local requests.

Most important of the promotions made during the month was that of 1st Lt. Frank M. Marson, Commanding officer of Co. "B" to the rank of Captain. 2nd Lt. William H. Lyon and 2nd Lt. Wayne W. Mayfield were promoted to 1st Lieuts. Four new officers were assigned to the battalion. They were 2nd Lt. Malcolm L.

UNIT HISTORY (Cont 'd)

Rose, CE; 2nd Lt. Wilburn W. Hursey, CE; 2nd Lt. Carroll E. Gustafson, CE; and 2nd Lt. John Fowler, CE. This brings the number of officers in the battalion up to 30 , the authorized number, but actually we are one Engineer officer overstrength and one medical officer understrength.

In the sports field Tec 4 John W. Groves, pitching ace of the baseball team, was chose to play on the 8th AF All-Star Team. He went on TD for 30 days to tour with the team, which was to participate in the 8th AF War Bond Drive.

The month came to an end with much celebrating and noise making. The first social events of the battalion in the form of company parties were held on successive Saturday nights. The reason, as Lts. Frank R. Pfersch, Special Service Officer, unabashedly admitted, was to have a good time. And we did! The parties were held at the Garden Courts at Marlow and G.I. trucks went as far as Richmond to transport girl friends. The beer flowed endlessly, our own Swingsters provided the dance music and the young ladies, of course, were most beautiful.

CORRECTED COPY  
DESTROY ALL OTHERS  
GENERAL ORDERS)

S E C R E T  
HEADQUARTERS  
8TH RECONNAISSANCE WING (PROV)  
APO 634

NUMBER.....24)

28 July, 1944

C I T A T I O N

The 942nd Engineering Aviation Topographic Battalion is cited for extraordinary achievement and outstanding performance of duty in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States for the period 1 May, 1944 to 30 June, 1944. This unit operating about twelve percent under strength, compiled and reproduced vital maps, charts, mosaics, photomaps, target overlays, training manuals and posters for the Eighth Air Force, Ninth Air Force, Air Transport Command and Air Ministry, including oblique bombardier-navigator target charts of strategic targets, oblique pilot-bombardier target charts of tactical targets, flak maps, special air navigation maps used in blind bombing, tactical target overlays, and maps and diagrams of airfields.

The battalion, upon receiving rush assignments, including projects of highest priority and military value completed every one on or ahead of schedule; the accomplishment of which required working efficiently, enthusiastically and over and above the normal line of duty. In most instances these special assignments required sections of the organization to work on a continuous three-shift basis, instead of the normal two shifts and on one occasion one section operated continuously for thirty hours to complete an important "D" Day project.

During the two month period this organization made the exceptional record of producing 2,015 negatives, 373 contact prints, 1,260 plates, 1,988,359 impressions and 1,490,288 copies.

The devotion to duty, morale, production technique and efficiently displayed by the 942nd Engineering Aviation Topographic Battalion reflects the highest credit on the organization and the military service of the United States.

By order of Colonel ROOSEVELT:

W.H. CLEVELAND,  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

M.E TRIMBLE  
Lt Col, Air Corps,  
Adjutant,

DIST: "A"  
(Annex #1)

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

201.22

12 July 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation

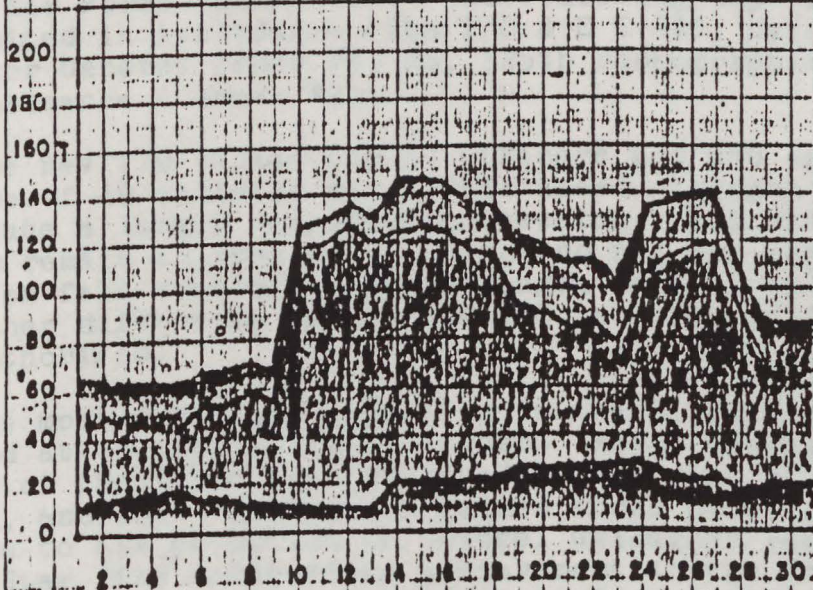
TO : Battalion Operations Section and Company A, 942nd  
Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion, AAF Station  
101, U.S. Army.

1. Recently this organization received a verbal commendation from Major David Brooks, A-3 Progress, and Colonel William H. Cleveland, Chief of Staff, Eighth Reconnaissance Wing (Prov.) for the excellent manner in which a job for the Third Bomb Division was performed.
2. The job consisted of the design and manufacture of a volume of photographs showing strikes on important attacks by the Third Division.
3. It is desired that the Battalion Operations Officer and the Commanding Office, Company A, pass on to all members of their commands my appreciation on their having received this commendation for a job well done.

EDWARD J. GALLAGHER,  
Major, C.E.  
Commanding.

(Annex #2)

# JOBS & DISTRIBUTION JULY 1944



TOTAL JOBS IN BH.  
 JOBS IN DRAFTING  
 JOBS IN REPRODUCTION

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 934 - U. S. ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(1 August 1944 to 31 August 1944)

The reorganization of our next higher echelon, the 8th Reconnaissance Wing (Prov), and its redesignation as the 325th Photographic Wing, Reconnaissance involved some changes for the 942nd Battalion. The battalion was reassigned and provided with a new T/O which had long been contemplated, but no immediate changes were discernible and work went on as usual. On 9 August 1944 the battalion was officially relieved from its assignment with the 8th Reconnaissance Wing and assigned to the 325th Photographic Wing, Reconnaissance per General Order #474, Hq Eighth Air Force (Annex #1). The following day the battalion was reorganized in accordance with T/O & E 5-400, dated 1 November 1943, per General Order #3, Hq, 325th Photographic Wing, Reconnaissance ( Annex #2).

The new T/O called for 30 officers and 550 enlisted men, an increase of 19 enlisted men. This added strength was to constitute a larger reproduction section. All other sections were to remain as they were. Since no new men were assigned; the battalion fell even more understrength than it had been. The only other difference in the new T/O was that 18 fewer basics were authorized.

The most important promotion in the battalions history occurred at the beginning of August. Major Gallagher, Commanding Officer of the 942nd, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and the organization gained added prestige thereby. In addition to his promotion Lt Colonel Gallagher received the Bronze Star "for meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding services from 15 April to 6 June 1944. 1st Lieut. Elmore, commanding Officer of Company "A", and 1 Lieut Moore, Commanding Officer of Hq and Hq & Serv Company, were promoted to the rank of Captain. The transfer of 1st Lieut. Anderson to Hq and Hq Squadron, 325th Photographic Wing, Reconnaissance left the battalion with one officer understrength, a medical officer.

Two commendations of note were received for units or individuals. In one the Chief of Cartography Section, OSS, expressed his appreciation to the Reproduction Unit, and in particular to Major Gallagher, Captain Stewart, Lieut George and Leonard A. Pollina, M/Sgt, for their help in print a series of maps (Annex #3). The other commendation, from Colonel Watts S. Humphrey, Senior Intelligence Officer, AC, contained high praise for 1st Lieut George and his assistants for a job for the Commanding General, 3rd Bomb Division, 8th Air Force, which was carried out with great care and precision (Annex #4).

Of all the work turned out during the month, the mosaic

## UNIT HISTORY (cont'd)

projects were of prime importance and required the most effort. There had been 19 of these jobs in the big month of July; in August there were 27. All were secret; all had triple "A" priority. There were no dead-lines on these rush jobs; they had to be gotten out immediately; the sensational American offensive sweeping through France couldn't wait. Unlike the bulk of the 942nd's work, these mosaics were made directly for Ground troops - specifically, the 12th Army Group, under the command of Lieutenant General Bradley. Primarily centering around the river areas of Northern and Central France - the Mouse, the Seine, the Aine, etc. - the mosaics were used in conjunction with the advance of the armies in the field.

In order to maintain an uninterrupted flow of work it was continuously necessary to rearrange the drafting platoons and shift personnel. In addition to the regular mosaic crew of three shifts, another crew of three shifts was added, and later in the month when the demands increased further, still another crew of three shifts were put on mosaic work. The supervision of the entire project and the burden of responsibility rested throughout with Lieuts Tarcza and Jacobs and Milton H. Howe, M/Sgt. Also in connection with the mosaic work, Major Shira made a special trip to France in the early part of the month. His mission to the 12th Army Group Headquarters was to ascertain their mosaic requirements so as to secure a greater degree of coordination.

The production figures for August are more impressive than ever before. Virtually from its inception, the 942nd steadily increased its output, month by month, even when it seemed that the limits of production had already been attained. Since the maximum amount of working hours had been utilized almost from the beginning, it must be assumed that a greater degree of efficiency was constantly being realized. 467 jobs were completed in August, an increase of 55 over the previous month. 510 contact prints, 814 plates, 1,117,320 impressions - all of these figures likewise represented new records. It was another banner month. A production graph is enclosed (Annex#5).

To round out the picture of the 942nd's history for August, there were such items as an intensive war bond campaign which went over our quota by approximately 22%, the resumption of granting furloughs and 48 hour passes and the ever-present flood of rumors, most of the latter including a hopeful vision of the Statue of Liberty.



S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 634

GENERAL ORDERS )

NUMBER.....474 )

9 August 1944

- SECTION I - ACTIVATION OF ORGANIZATIONS
- SECTION II - DISCONTINUANCE OF ORGANIZATIONS
- SECTION III - ASSIGNMENT OF ORGANIZATION
- SECTION IV - REORGANIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONS
- SECTION V - DISBANDMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS

I. ACTIVATION OF ORGANIZATION: 1. Pursuant to authority contained in War Department Letter, AG 322 (5 June 44) OB-I-AFRPG-M, Subject: "Reorganization of Certain Army Air Forces Units in European Theater of Operations", 17 July 44, as amended by War Department Letter AG 322 (24 July 44) OB-I-AFRPG-M, subject as above, 26 July 1944, and Letter Hq U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe, File 322, subject: "Activation, disbandment, Redesignation and Reorganization of Certain Army Air Forces Units", 1 August 1944, the following organization is hereby activated at AAF Station 101, and will be organized in accordance with T/O & E 1-760-1, dated 18 September 1943, and change 1 by the Commanding Officer, 8th Reconnaissance Wing (Prov), utilizing personnel now assigned to his command:

	<u>Authorized Strength</u>		
	<u>Off</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
Hq & Hq Sq, 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance	42	2	105

2. Pursuant to authority contained in letters mentioned in paragraph 1 above, the Commanding Officer, Hq & Hq, 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance, will issue the necessary orders, at the earliest practicable date, effecting the activation of the following organizations in accordance with Tables of Organization & Equipment, listed, at the stations indicated:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>T/O &amp; E</u>	<u>AAF Sta</u>	<u>Authorized Strength</u>		
			<u>Off</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
Hq 25th Bomb Cp(Ren)	1-112, 29 June 44	376	29	1	74
x 652nd Bomb Sq(Hv) (Weather Ren(Hv))	x 1-117, 26 Mar 43 & Changes 1,2, 3 and 4.	376	67	0	348
y 653 Bomb Sq(L) (Weather Ren(L))	y 1-137, 28 Mar 44	376	51	0	242

Annex #1

S E C R E T

2. (Cont'd)

z 654th Bomb Sq (Hv) (Ren Sp)	z 1-117, 26 Mar 43 & Changes 1,2,3 & 4	101	83	0	348
8th Photo Tech Sq	1-779, 16 Sept 1943	101	83	1	201

x T/O is less 13 Bombardiers (1035) (Cols 14, 15 and 16, lines 25, 26, 27), one (1) Captain, three (3) 1st Lieutenants, nine (9) 2nd Lieutenants, five (5) Bombsight Mechanics (Co 24, lines 60 and 61), three (3) Control Tower Operators (Col 25, lines 81, 82 and 83) plus thirteen (13) Weather Officer (8219) (one (1) Captain, three (3) 1st Lieutenants and nine (9) 2nd Lieutenants), five (5) Weather Equip tech (782) (one (1) Staff Sgt, two (2) Sgt and two (2) Cpls).

y T/O is less four (4) Bombardier-Navigators (1036) (Cols 13, 14, 15 and 16, line 25) two (2) Bombsight Mechanics (9683) (Cols 22, lines 59 and 60) plus twenty (20) 2nd Lieutenants) and five (5) Weather Equip Tech (782), (one (1) Staff Sgt, two (2) Sgts and two (2) Cpls).

z T/O is less Col 25, lines 81, 82 and 83.

3. Officer and enlisted grades are authorized accordingly.

4. Filler personnel and equipment will be requisitioned in the usual manner.

5. The provisions of AE 345-900, 22 May 1942, will be complied with where applicable.

6. The dates of activation will be reported to this headquarters by teletype without delay.

II. DISCONTINUANCE OF ORGANIZATIONS: 1. The 8th Reconnaissance Wing (Prov) having been temporarily established by general orders number 69, this headquarters, 18 February 1944, is discontinued effective 9 August 1944.

2. The provisions of AE 345-900, 22 May 1942, will be complied with where applicable.

III. ASSIGNMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS: 1. Upon activation, the following organizations are assigned to Hq, 25th Bomb Cp (Ren):

652nd Bomb Sq (hv)  
653rd Bomb Sq (L)  
654th Bomb Sq (hv)

Annex #1 (Cont'd)

2. (Cont'd)

2. The following organizations are assigned to the 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance, effective 9 August 1944:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>For Further Assignment to AAF Station</u>
3d AAF Combat Camera Unit	101
161st AAF Motion Picture Unit 16 MM	101
163d AAF Motion Picture Unit 16 MM	101
1st AAF Photo Intelligence Det	101
19th AAF Photo Intelligence Det	101
942d Engr Avn Topographical Bn	101
2d Photo Tech Sq	101
Hq & Hq Sq, 5th CCRC Cp	101
6th Replacement & Training Sq (Bomb)	101
8th Photo Tech Sq	101
2134th Engr Avn Fire Fighting Platoon	234
1274th MP Co Avn	234
Hq, 7th Photo Cp Ren	234
13th Photo Ren Sq	234
14th Photo Ren Sq	234
22d Photo Ren Sq	234
27th Photo Ren Sq	234
381st Sv Sq (78th Sv Cp)	234
55th Sta Com Sq	234
Hq 25th Bomb Gp (Ren)	376
652d Bomb Sq (hv)	376
653d Bomb Sq (L)	376
654th Bomb Sq (hv)	376
8th AAF Combat Camera Unit	376
2135th Engr Avn Fire Fighting Platoon	376
1070th QM Co Sv Gp	376
375th Sv Sq (Sep)	376
50th Fighter Sq (Twin Engine)	376
5th Replacement 7 Training Sq (Bomb)	376
Hq & Hq Sq, 6th CCRC Gp	376

3. The attention of the commanders concerned is directed to the provisions of AR 345-900, 22 May 1942.

IV. REORGANIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONS: 1. Pursuant to authority contained in War Department letter, AG 322 (10 Mar 44) OB-I-AFRPG-M, subject: "Redesignation, Reorganization and Disbandment of Certain engineer Aviation Units", and Headquarters European Theater of Operations, 1st Ind thereto, AG 322 OP, the Commanding Officer, Hq Sq, 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance, will issue the necessary orders affecting the reorganization of the 942d Engr Avn Top Bn in accordance with T.O & E 5-400, dated 1 November 1943, as indicated below:

Annex #1 (Cont'd)

Authorized Strength

<u>Off</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
30	0	550

<u>Number of Units</u>	<u>T/O Column</u>	<u>Strength</u>		
		<u>Off</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
1	3-AA	5		12
1	4-AB	2		14
1	5-AC	2		19
1	6-AD	2		19
1	8-AF	2		31
2	9-AC	2		30
2	10-AH	2		58
2	11-AI	4		172
2	13-AK	4		150
1	16-AM	1		21
1	17-AO	-		3
2	18-AP	-		10
1	19-AQ	-		7
2	16-CA +	2		24
1	Med Det Atchd	2		8
		<u>30</u>		<u>568</u>
	Less Basics ++	-		18
		<u>30</u>		<u>550</u>

+ T/O & E 5-500, 31 July 43 & Changes 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7.

++ Effect is given herein to reduction in basics in compliance with the provisions of Section V, WD Circular 201, dated 22 May 1944.

2. Officer and enlisted grades are authorized accordingly.

3. Filler personnel and equipment will be requisitioned in the usual manner.

4. The provisions of AR 345-900, 22 May 1942, will be complied with where applicable.

5. The date of reorganization will be reported in this headquarters without delay.

V. DISBANDMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS; 1. Pursuant to authority contained in letters mentioned in paragraph 1, Section I above, the Commanding Officer, 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance will issue the necessary orders to effect the disbandment of the following organizations at stations indicated with the least practicable delay:

Annex #1 (Cont'd)

<u>Units</u>	<u>At AAF Station</u>
50th Fighter Sq (Twin Engine)	376
Hq & Hq Sq, 5th CCRC Gp	101
5th Replacement & Training Sq (Bomb)	376
Hq & Hq Sq, 6th CCRC Gp	376
6th Replacement & Training Sq (Bomb)	101

2. Personnel and equipment now assigned to those organizations will be utilized to the fullest extent practicable to effect the activation of organizations listed in paragraphs 1 and 2, Section I above. Surplus personnel excess to the requirements of the Commanding Officer, Hq & Hq Sq, 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance, will be reported to Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, for disposition. Surplus equipment will be reported to Commanding General, VIII AF Service Command, for disposition.

3. The provisions of AE 345-900, 22 May 1942, will be complied with where applicable.

4. The dates of disbandment will be reported to this headquarters without delay.

By command of Lieutenant General DOOLITTLE:

JOHN S. ALLARD  
Colonel, GSC  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

LINDSEY L. BRAXTON  
Lt Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION: TAG (Att: Opns Branch(6)  
CG, AAF (Att: Air AG, Pub Branch) (10)  
CG, ETOUSA (25)  
CG, USSTAF (6) (1 cy to postal)  
CG, VIII AFCC (5)  
CG, VIII FC (5)  
CG, VIII AFSC (10)  
CG, 1st Bomb Div (5)  
CG, 2d Bomb Div (5)  
CG, 3d Bomb Div (5)  
CO, ea unit concerned (5)  
CO, ea station concerned (5)  
CO, 91st MRU, APO 887 (2)  
CO, 65th MRU  
CO, 93d MRU  
AG Misc Sec  
Each Staff Sec, this Hq  
CO, 21st SCU  
Western & Southern Base Sections

Annex #1 (Cont'd)

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS  
325TH PHOTOGRAPHIC WING, RECONNAISSANCE  
APO 634

GENERAL ORDERS )

NUMBER.....3)

REORGANIZATION OF 942D ENGR AVN TOPO BN

1. Pursuant to authority contained in War Department Letter, AG 322 (10 Mar 44) OB-I-AFRPG-M, subject: "Redesignation, Reorganization and Disbandment of Certain engineer Aviatin Units", and Headquarters European Theater of Operations, 1st Ind. thereto, AG 322 OP, and Section IV, GO No. 474, Hq Eighth Air Force, 9 August, 1944 the 942d Engr Avn Topo Bn is reorganized in accordance with T/O & E 5-400, dated 1 November, 1943 as indicated below:

Authorized Strength

Off	WO	EM
<u>30</u>	<u>0</u>	550

<u>Number of Units</u>	<u>T/O Column</u>	<u>Strength</u>		
		<u>Off</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
1	3-AA	5		12
1	4-AB	2		14
1	5-AC	2		19
1	6-AD	2		19
1	8-AF	2		31
2	9-AC	2		30
2	10-AH	2		58
2	11-AI	4		172
2	13-AK	4		150
1	16-AM	1		21
1	17-AO	-		3
2	18-AP	-		10
1	19-AQ	-		7
2	16-CA +	2		24
1	Med Det Atchd	2		8
		<u>30</u>		<u>568</u>
	Less Basics ++	-		18
		<u>30</u>		<u>550</u>

+ T/O & E 5-500, 31 July 43 & Changes 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7.

++ Effect is given herein to reduction in basics in compliance with the provisions of Section V, WD Circular 201, dated 22 May 1944.

Annex # 2

2. Officer and enlisted grades are authorized accordingly.

3. Filler personnel and equipment will be requisitioned in the usual manner.

Annex #2 (Cont'd)

4. The provisions of AR 345-900, 22 May 1942, will be complied with where applicable.

GO No. 3, Hq 325th Photo Wing, Ren,  
dated 10 August, 1944, Cont'd:

By order of Colonel ROOSEVELT:

W.H. CLEVELAND  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

M.E. TRIMBLE,  
Lt Col, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

DISTRIBUTION:

3 cy TAG (Attn Oprns Br)  
10 cy CG, AAF (Attn Air AG Pubs Br)  
28 cy CG, ETOUSA  
6 cy CG, USSTAF  
5 cy BADA, ASC, USSTAF  
8 cy CG, Eighth AF  
8 cy CG, VIII AFSC  
1 cy, CO, Western Base Section  
1 cy CO, AAF Sta 234  
1 cy CO, AAF Sta 376  
5 cy ea unit concerned.  
2 cy 65th M.R.U.  
1 cy ea Staff Sec this Hq.  
10 cy File.

Annex #2 (Cont'd)



R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
8TH RECONNAISSANCE WING (PROV)  
APO 634

C-WHS-efl

201.22

4 August 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 942nd Engineering Aviation Topo Bn,  
APO 634.

1. It gives me great pleasure to commend you and your subordinates for the performance of duty which warranted the attached letter. This cooperation, and your ability to fill requisitions for another branch of the military service reflects highest credit upon all personnel under your command.

2. A copy of this correspondence will be placed in the 201 file of each member named in the attached communication.

S/ Elliott Roosevelt  
ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Commanding

1 Incl - Ltr, OSS Detachment,  
25 July 1944

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant

Annex #3

R E S T R I C T E D

OSS DETACHMENT APO 887

Commanding Officer  
8th Reconnaissance Wing  
U.S. Army, 101

25 July 1944

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my appreciation for the willing co-operation and the excellent results of your Reproduction Unit in printing the following Maps for us:

Western Germany - Administrative divisions.  
The Netherlands - Folders - Floodability.  
The Netherlands - Political Base Map.  
Luxembourg - Administration under German occupation  
Luxembourg - Administration prior to occupation  
Luxembourg - Roads.  
Luxembourg - Electrical power systems.  
France - Displaced persons.  
Belgium - Arrondissement of Ypres.  
Denmark - Political Base Map.

You may be assured that without your help we would not have been able to fulfill our map requests.

I trust you will pass our appreciation to Major Gallagher, Captain Stewart, Lieutenant George, and M/Sgt Pollina.

Yours very truly,

S/ Robert J. Voskuil  
ROBERT J. VOSKUIL  
Chief, Cartography Section

S/ Leonard S. Wilson  
LEONARD S. WILSON, Lt (jg) USNR  
Chief, Map Division Outpost  
London

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant

Annex #3 (Cont'd)

COMBINED OPERATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE  
c/o HEADQUARTERS, EIGHT AIR FORCE, APO 634

17 August 1944

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation for 1st Lt. D.T. GEORGE.  
TO : Commanding Officer, 325th Photo Wing Recce.,  
AAF Station 101.

1. Early in August, request was made for the duplication in color of a series of maps representing the Enemy Reaction Analysis of Eighth Air Force Missions of 28 May and 7 July, 1944. This work required a great deal of care as to detail in preparation.

2. The work was carried out by 1st Lt. D.T. GEORGE and his assistants in a manner which reflects much credit to himself and his organization.

3. The maps were printed in response to a request from the Commanding General, 3rd Division, for copies for all of the Bomb. Groups and Combat Wings in the 3rd Division. Copies will go to the 1st and 2nd Bomb. Divisions also and to many other headquarters, both in the E.T.O. and elsewhere.

4. The work done by the 942nd Engineering Avn. Topo. Bn. was carried out with great care and precision, showing a high degree of cooperation and pride in the assigned duty.

5. Requested that this letter be made a part of the 201 file of Lt. GEORGE.

S/ Watts S. Humphrey  
WATTS S. HUMPHREY  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Senior Intelligence Officer,  
Combined Operational Planning Committees.

201.22 1st Ind C-WHS-hwm  
HEADQUARTERS, 325TH PHOTOGRAPHIC WING RECONNAISSANCE, APO 634,  
U.S. ARMY.

I wish to add my commendation to that of Colonel Humphrey's on the excellent work of your organization, and in particular Lt. D.T. George, in the preparation and production of maps for the 3rd Bombardment Division.

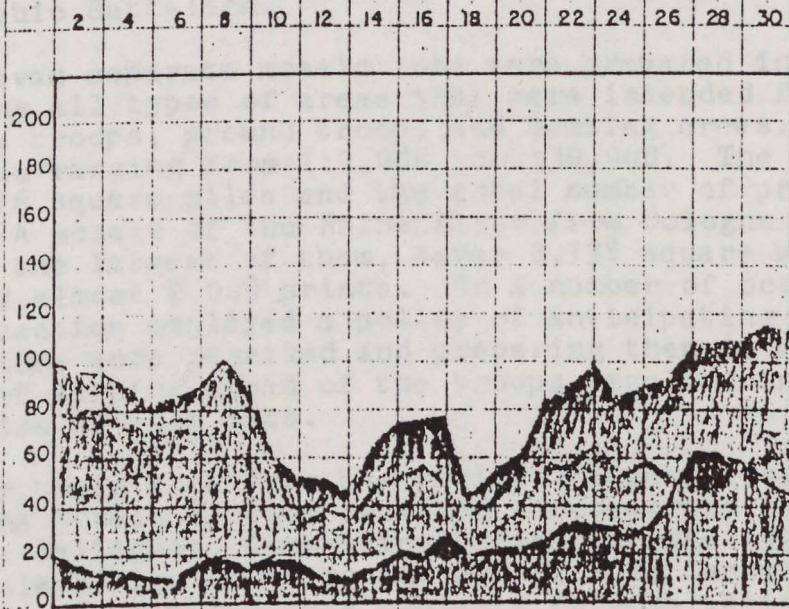
(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

S/ Elliott Roosevelt  
ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT,  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Commanding.

Annex #4

JOBS & DISTRIBUTION AUG. 1944



■ TOTAL JOBS IN BN.  
■ JOBS IN DRAFTING  
■ JOBS IN REPRODUCTION

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 - U.S. ARMY

UNIT HISTORY  
(1 September 1944 to 30 September 1944)

A brilliant chapter was written into military annals during the month of September when the Allied First Airborne Division executed a daring operations well behind the enemy lines, securing the vital bridge at Nijmegen and fighting heroically against super odds at Arnhem. These paratroops and glider borne troops, who so fired the imagination of the world, struck from the skies carrying photo-mosaics made by the 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion.

Eleven separate mosaic jobs were prepared in September, including all types of areas that were intended for use by airborne troops, ground troops and bombing crews. They were laid at scales ranging from 1:9,000 to 1:30,000. The total area cover was 6,076 square miles and the total number of prints laid was 7,499. A mosaic of the Rhine River from Cologne to the Swiss border, the largest of them, cover 2,738 square miles and required almost 2,000 prints. On a number of occasions the mosaic section employed a policy of anticipating job orders before they were received and preparing them in advance. This policy of keeping ahead of the troops resulted in the rapid completion of rush jobs.

For their work from the period 1 August 1944 to 23 September 1944, the Mosaic Section received a noteworthy commendation from Lt. Col. Gallagher, Commanding Officer of the 942nd. The Colonel congratulated the officers and men of this Section for the enviable record which they achieved through their efficiency and devotion to duty (Annex #1). A verbal commendation from Captain Blakey and Lt. Stark of the 19th P.I.D., Target Section, was received by Captain Stewart (for the men of the Mosaic and Reproduction Sections). Both Captain Blakey and Lt. Stark stated that the mosaic which had been prepared for them was the most complete they had seen and far exceeded their requirements and expectations (Annex #2).

In accordance with the new T/O for this Battalion, which was received last month, the Reproduction Section was reorganized to include two type 1 platoons. Two new Webendorfer presses were acquired as authorized under the new T/BA, bringing the total number of presses to seven. The two new presses were placed into operation immediately in spite of the lack of qualified pressmen. New men are being trained in this section so that all the presses will be operated by full crews for 24 hours a day. This another example of how the Reproduction Section has, although they have been constantly understrength, managed to maintain a rigid production schedule.

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

A commendation to the 942nd from Earl S. Hoag, Brigadier General, Commanding General of the European Division, Air Transport Command revealed that the battalion had participated indirectly in the Allied landing in Southern France by furnishing a large number of troop carrier aircraft with route manuals for the trip. The spirit and cooperation displayed by the men of the 942nd, according to the General, enabled the completion of this urgent project within the limited time that was available (Annex #3). Two other commendations were received during the month. Grant W. Ernst, Lt. Colonel, IX Troop Carrier Command, expressed his appreciation to Captain Stewart, Lt. George and the enlisted personnel of the battalion for their prompt and efficient cooperation in furnishing operational material for the units of his command (Annex #4). The other commendation came from Cooke Bausman, Jr., Major, Air Inspector, reporting on the excellent condition of the Unit Personnel Section (Annex #5).

Production figures for September continue to remain impressively high, although the ever rising curve now seems to be leveling off. A decline in the number of jobs completed was more than balanced by the record number of nearly a million and a half impressions run off the presses. The number of plates, 962, and negatives, 2122, also exceeds all previous figures. The production flow chart for September is attached (Annex #6).

There were fewer promotions this month than heretofore because most of the available ratings have been filled. There were a few new ratings among the enlisted; among the officers, Burns D. Price was promoted to 1st Lieut. The number and status of the battalion personnel remained approximately the same. A few new replacements arrived, and were assigned, for the most part, to Reproduction. On the other hand, the Army's Demobilization plan began to go into effect and a few happy men packed their belongings and left for the good old U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

SUBJECT: Commendation

27 September 1944

TO : Mosaic Section, Company A, 942nd Engineer Avn. Topo.  
Bn.

1. During the period 1 August 1944 to 23 September 1944, the mosaic Section has completed 42 mosaics of cities, towns and areas of Europe, covering a total of 5,786 square miles of land area and involving the indexing, ratioing, rectification, annotating and assembling of 9,887 aerial photographs. These results were achieved through an expenditure of 8,149 man-hours of work.

2. Many of these tasks covered areas of prime importance to the conduct of the campaign in Europe, and were completed in extremely short time only by the efficient manner with which the Section was organized and managed and by the exemplary devotion to duty of its members.

3. I congratulate the officers and men of the Mosaic Section on the enviable record they have achieved which has greatly enhanced the reputation of this battalion.

S/Edward J. Gallagher  
EDWARD J. GALLAGHER  
Lt. Col., C.E.  
Commanding.

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #1

BATTALION OPERATIONS  
942nd Engr. Avn. Topo. Bn.  
APO 634, U.S. Army

SUBJECT: Commendation

30 September 1944

TO: : Mosaic and Reproduction Sections

1. I desire to pass to you the verbal commendations I received for Captain Blakey and Lt. Stark of the 19th P.I.D. Target Section in connection with Mosaic No. 46 recently prepared by your section.

2. Both Captain Blakey and Lt. Stark stated it was the best prepared and most complete mosaic they had seen and far exceeded their requirements and expectations.

3. As a matter of interest, Captain Blakey stated that another unit had previously <sup>prepared</sup> the same mosaic and his section found it to <sup>be</sup> unusable

S/Robert S. Stewart  
T/ROBERT S. STEWART  
Captain, C.E.  
S-3

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #2



UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES  
HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN DIVISION, AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND  
(1400TH AAF BASE UNIT)  
APO 887 U.S. ARMY

In reply refer to:  
201.22

3HI/pc  
28 August 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation of 942nd Engineering Advanced Topographic  
Battalion.

TO : Commanding General, 8th Air Force, AAF Station 101, APO  
634, U.S. Army.

1. Just prior to the Allied landing in South France, a large number of troop carrier aircraft were deployed from this theater to Italy to participate in the airborne phase of that invasion. It was necessary for the European Division of ATC to brief these aircraft and to furnish them with route manuals for this trip.

2. This Headquarters did not have enough copies of required route manuals to supply such a large number of aircraft crews. It became necessary to call upon the 942nd Engineering Advanced Topographic Battalion to produce a large quantity of sheets for these manuals on very short notice. At this time the project was classified as "top secret" and it was not possible to explain to the officers of the battalion the urgency of this printing job. However, the battalion, at the request of this Headquarters, went to work on this project immediately on a twenty four hour shift and completed the work within the limited time that was available.

3. The 942nd Engineering Advanced Topographic Battalion is to be commended for their spirit and willingness to put extra effort into their work when the occasion arises.

S/Earl S. Hoag  
T/EARL S. HOAG  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Commanding

Annex #3

201.22 1st Ind C-8-3  
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, AAF STATION 101, APO 634,  
6 September 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance, APO  
634.

1. The commanding General has noted with pleasure the commendation contained in basic communication.

2. Through the speed and efficiency with which the 942nd Engineering Advanced Topographic Battalion filled the urgent requirements for additional route manual sheets, a shortage of manuals needed in conjunction with the landings in Southern France was alleviated in time to avert serious difficulty.

By command of Lieutenant General DOOLITTLE:

S/Meedie W. Hobbs  
MEEDIE W. HOBBS  
Major AGD  
Ass't Adjutant  
General.

201.22 2nd Ind G-MRN\*elg  
HEADQUARTERS 325TH PHOTOGRAPHIC WING, RECONNAISSANCE, APO 634, US  
Army. 9 Sep 44

TO: Commanding Officer, 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn, AAF Station 101,  
APO 634.

The Commanding Officer desires to add his commendation and appreciation for this outstanding instance of attention to duty.

By order of Colonel ROOSEVELT:

S/M.R. Norman  
T/M.R. NORMAN  
CWO., USA  
ASS'T ADJUTANT

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #3 (Cont'd)

R E S T R I C T E D

IX ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS  
IX TROOP CARRIER COMMAND  
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, A-2  
APO 133, U S Army

D-E

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : Commanding Officer, 942nd Engineer Aviation  
Topographical BN, aPO 634, U S Army.

1. The Intelligence Section of this headquarters has had occasions over a period of time to use the facilities of your unit for reproduction purposes. Much of this work has been on an operational priority basis with fixed time limits.

2. Captain Stewart, Lieutenant George and your enlisted personnel have been most efficient and cooperative at all times in enabling this Command to furnish its units with necessary operational material prompt and efficient cooperation.

S/Grant W. Ernst  
T/GRANT W. ERNEST  
Lt Colonel, GSC  
A C of S, A-2

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #4

HEADQUARTERS  
325th PHOTOGRAPHIC WING, RECONNAISSANCE H-CB-pk  
Office of the Air Inspector  
APO 634

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 942nd Engineer Avn Topographic  
Battalion, AAF Station 101, APO 634.

1. The excellent condition of the Unit Personnel Section of your Headquarters, as reported by the Assistant Air Inspector, reflects the diligent effort and excellent attitude of the Enlisted Men of this Section as well as 1st Lt. D.E. Greene, Adjutant.

2. The steady improvement in maintaining both Service Records and WD AGO Forms 20, which was facilitated by the untiring effort of the personnel mentioned above through voluntary forfeiture of their passes and furloughs, reflects great credit to themselves and to their organization.

3. This Office is gratified to report such sincere effort to the Commanding Officer, 325th Photographic Wing, Reconnaissance.

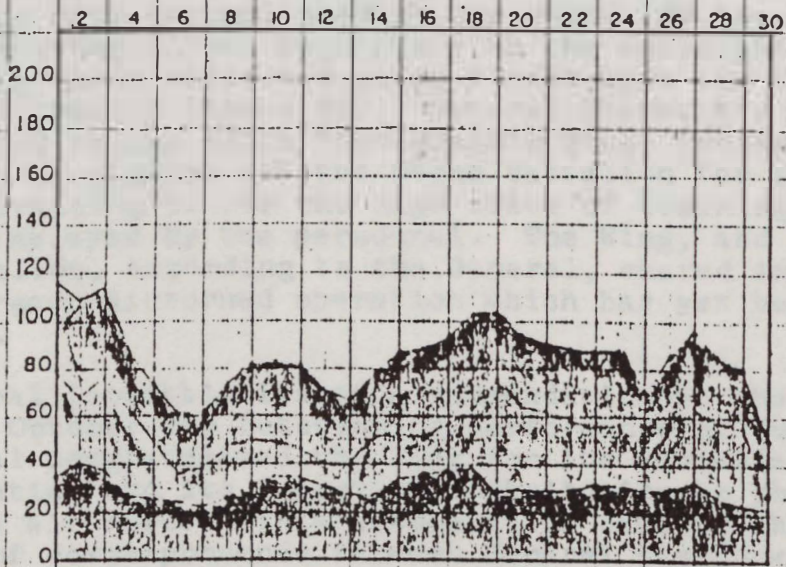
S/ Cooke Bausman, Jr.  
COOKE BAUSMAN, Jr.,  
Major, AC,  
Air Inspector.

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #5

JOBS & DISTRIBUTION SEPT. 1944



TOTAL JOBS IN BN  
 JOBS IN REPRODUCTION  
 JOBS IN DRAFTING

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 - U. S. ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944)

Work done by the 942nd Topographic Battalion in recent months attracted the attention of two non-organization Lieutenant Generals: Omar N. Bradley, Commanding General of the Twelfth Army Group, and L.H. Brereton, Commanding General of First Allied Airborne Army. Each congratulated the battalion for aid rendered in the common cause. General Bradley, in a unit commendation to our Commanding Officer, expressed his appreciation for the outstanding work accomplished by the 942nd for the Twelfth Army Group. Untiring effort together with the anticipation of the Army Groups needs reflected great credit upon the unit according to General Bradley (Annex #1). General Brereton's commendation was directed to the 325th Photographic Wing, Reconnaissance as a whole, but he singled out the 942nd Battalion for special mention, praising it for the high state of training and devotion to duty displayed by the personnel. The Wing, and consequently this Battalion, according to the General, shared in the success of the largest airborned operation which has yet been launched. (Annex 2).

General Doolittle issued a commendation to the entire 325th Wing on 9 October for outstanding performance of duty (Annex 3). The General congratulated the Wing for its enviable record since its activation and its important contribution to the success of the Eighth Air Force. This commendation came on the heels of an exchange of correspondence between General Eisenhower and General Spaatz - also transmitted to us by General Doolittle - in which the Supreme Allied Commander expressed his lasting gratitude to the personnel of the Strategic Air Forces for their cooperation (Annex 4).

Another commendation of an entirely different kind, was received for the 942nd Dance Band, the "Swingsters", which has been building a reputation for itself and the organization, playing about three nights a week in and out of camp. The Director of the Camp Lynn Aeroclub, Catherine G. White, thanked Lt. Col. Gallagher for the band's participation in dances and jam sessions at the club (Annex 5).

In both of the Generals' commendations it was the production of mosaics and photomaps which were noted specifically. Though this type of work might be considered somewhat more spectacular than other, it would be unfair to over emphasize it to the subordination of other important jobs. The drafting platoons, always an essential section of any topographic unit, turned out work of a vital nature during October. During the month a loaded docket of job orders, including many types, taxed the skill and speed of the draftsmen to the utmost.

Some of the jobs in production deserve mention. The "Neugrip" Series of maps for the AEAF which were compiled from 1:500,000 to 1:1,000,000 scale involved the plotting of more, redrafting and "layout". The fourth edition of Special Air Navigation Series for the 8th Air Force consisted of 9 maps of Central Germany. Eleven target maps, the equivalent of the British night target maps, were drafted for Air Ministry. This unit did the color separation drafting (3 plates for each) and the British reproduced them for immediate use by the RAF. These maps were highly secret and had "A" priority.

Perhaps the most challenging job every to come into the drafting rooms was the Japanese project. Fortunately it wasn't a rush job for it entailed a great deal of planning, apart from a vast amount of drafting, consisting of 15 separate maps of Japan for the Office of Strategic Services. When completed, one of the above maps contained a maximum of ten colors separated into designs representing a maximum of 125 separate areas. Over 100 metal plates for color separation drawings will be used, the preparation of which is a considerable job in itself. This will be a major and continuous job for the next month or two as it will be interrupted by the priority operational work from day to day.

The mosaic section during this month had a drop in production, but it was directly attributed to the adverse weather in France, Holland and Germany. The job orders were on hand and the men were ready, but the photographic coverage was lacking in many cases because the reconnaissance airmen couldn't obtain the necessary photographs. Nevertheless, seven jobs were turned out, a total area of 3,635 square miles. All were of Western Germany, the battlefield of tomorrow.

The bad flying weather also affected the work of the Photo-Library Section. The tracing and filing of current sorties - one of the varied functions of the Photo-Library - was held up on the occasions that photographs didn't arrive. On 10 October 1944 Harold A. Reynolds, Captain, AC, who had been on Detached Services with the Photo-Library Section of the battalion, received a warm commendation from Lt. Col. Gallagher, Commanding Officer (Annex 6). Captain Reynolds who had organized and supervised the Map Library, was released from his assignment with the 942nd later in the month and all who had come to know and admire him in the battalion were genuinely sorry to see him go.

The production figures for October reveal one interesting item: that 1,777,025 impressions were turned out during the month and all time record. The main reason for this great number was the 600, impressions used on one job alone - namely roads and railroads maps of France for the Transportation Corps of the U.S. Army. Other figures were approximately the same as previous months. A production chart for October is attached. (Annex 7)

Lt. Price and Lt. George both made trips to France during

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

the month. These trips, each lasting about 5 days, were for the purpose of coordinating the map requirements of the Twelfth Army Group, the AEAFF, OCE, and other headquarters in the field. It is expected that an officer of the battalion will make those rounds every two or three weeks. On 11 October Captain Rothrock went on TD to the RAF School of Pathology and Tropical Medicine for 14 days.

During the month a carbine marksmanship contest was held by the Base Defense Officer to determine the best unit team on AAF Station 101, and also a team to represent Station 101 in the Headquarters Command competition to be composed of the five highest individual scorers from the unit teams. A preliminary elimination firing was held in the Battalion and a team chosen to represent the Battalion at the match firing. A five man team composed of Lt. Pferach, Lt. Jeter, Tec 4 Eleuteri, Sgt Dicaulla and Pfc Polley placed the large loving cup on display in this Battalion by a margin of 64 points. Each member of the team received individual medals and Lt. Pfersch also received a nice silver cup for highest individual scorer on the station. He outpointed his closest rival by 12 points. Lt. Pfersch and Tec 4 Eleuteri obtained a berth on the Station team and Lt. Jeter and Pfc Polley placed as first and second alternate respectively.

In the Command Competition between this Station, Lt. Farme and Watten, Lt. Pfersch and Tec 4 Eleuteri again shared in the honors of a winner as Station 101 outpointed its closest rival by a team margin of over 100 points. Lt. Pfersch and Sgt Eleuteri will be members of the Station and Command teams in the final 8th Air Force Meet to be fired at Thedford early next month.

Since no change of station seemed in prospect, plans were made to winterize the tents. The cold weather season was at hand and we prepared to meet the onslaughts of the English winter.



HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH ARMY GROUP  
APO 655

201.22 x 330.13

28 September 44

SUBJECT: Unit Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force.

1. It is desired to commend you as commanding officer and the officers and men of your unit for the outstanding work which you have accomplished for the Twelfth Army Group and for all the subordinate units under this command.

2. Your untiring efforts together with the anticipation of Army Group needs have made the mosaics and uncontrolled photo maps produced by the 942nd Engineer Battalion available for quantity distribution in many instances where no other material was available.

3. Great credit is reflected upon your unit and the service in general by the outstanding devotion to duty displayed by the individuals of your command.

/s/ O.N. Bradley  
/T/ O.N. BRADLEY  
Lt Gen, U.S.A.  
Commanding

201.22 x 330.13 1st Ind (DCSA)  
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTS AIR FORCE, APO 634, 16 October 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 325th Photo Wing, Reconnaissance, APO  
634

It is indeed gratifying to receive a commendation from the Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group in appreciation for excellent services rendered by an organization of this command. I desire to add my own appreciation for a task well done.

/s/ J.H. Doolittle  
/t/ J.H. DOOLITTLE  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.  
Commanding

Annex # 1

201.22 x 330.13

2nd Ind.

G-MET-elg

HEADQUARTERS 325TH PHOTOGRAPHIC WING, RECONNAISSANCE, APO 634, US  
Army 22 Oct 44

TO: Commanding Officer, 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn, AAF Station 101,  
APO 634.

I am proud to forward the basic communication from the  
Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group and first indorsement from  
the Commanding General, Eighth Air Force.

/s/ Elliott Roosevelt  
/t/ ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #1 (Cont'd)

HEADQUARTERS  
FIRST ALLIED AIRBORNE ARMY

AG 201.22

APO 740, U S Army  
21 September 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 325th Photo Wing, Reconnaissance,  
APO 634, U S Army. (Thru CG; VIII Air Force).

1. During the planning phase of the recent airborne landings in HOLLAND, your organization received numerous requests for aerial photographs and mosaics from this Headquarters.

2. The high state of training and devotion to duty displayed by the personnel of the 942nd Eng. Avn. Topo. Battalion and other elements of your organization has reflected great credit upon you and upon those under your Command.

3. Captain Bernard L. Thomas, 0-471020, 325th Photo wing, on Detached Service with this Headquarters from 24 Aug to 20 Sept 1944, displayed a high degree of professional knowledge and was most helpful during the organization of the Photo Section.

4. It gives me great pleasure to commend you, and through you the members of your Command, for your share in the success of the largest airborne operation which has yet been mounted.

/s/ L.H. Brereton  
/t/ L.H. BRERETON  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding.

201.22 1st Ind G-A-12  
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE; APO 634, 27 September 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 325th Photo Wing, Reconnaissance, APO  
634

It is very gratifying for me to transmit to you and the members of your command the commendation from the Commanding General, 1st Airborne Army. I desire to add my personal congratulations thereto.

/s/ J.H. Doolittle  
/t/ J.H. DOOLITTLE  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.  
Commanding

Annex # 2

201.22

2nd Ind.

A-ER-elg

HEADQUARTERS 325TH PHOTOGRAPHIC WING, RECONNAISSANCE, APO 634, US  
Army. 3 Oct 44

TO: Commanding Officer, 7th Photo Group, Ren, AAF Station 234,  
APO 634.

Commanding Officer, 25th Bomb Group, Ren, AAF Station 376, APO  
634.

Commanding Officer, 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn, AAF Station 101.

Commanding Officer, 2d Photo Tech Sq, AAF Station 101.

Commanding Officer, 8th Photo Tech Sq. AAF Station 101.

It is with extreme pleasure that I forward this commendation from the Commanding General's, 1st Airborne Army and Eighth Air Force to all members of your command who so diligently and unselfishly did their part in assisting the recent historic airborne landings. I desire to add my personal congratulations to all members of this command.

/s/ Elliott Roosevelt  
/t/ ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding

Cy-Capt Thomas.

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #2 (Cont'd)

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 634

201.22

9 October 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.  
TO : Commanding Officer, 325th Photo Wing, Reconnaissance,  
APO 634

1. I desire to commend the 325th Photo Wing, Reconnaissance (formerly the 8th Reconnaissance Wing (Provisional)), and all units assigned or attached thereto, for outstanding performance of duty since activation of the Wing in February 1944.

2. In view of having been formed less than four (4) months before D-Day, the Wing was faced with innumerable problems of great urgency in developing the facilities enabling it to provide on a large scale the many reconnaissance functions which were so essential to the successful invasion of the Continent. The fact that adequate photo reconnaissance information has at all times been available to both the Allied ground and air forces is attributable, in a substantial degree, to the efficient organization built up by the 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance in this short period of time.

3. In the field of weather reconnaissance, the Wing has taken an important part in providing much more satisfactory coverage than heretofore had been obtained. New tactics and technique in the field have been developed which will be of great value as a continuing guide to air force reconnaissance activity. In the field of mapping, the 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance has performed invaluable services. The Wing is responsible, furthermore, for having perfected combat night photography.

4. All personnel in the 325th photo Wing, Reconnaissance, both ground and air, have contributed notably to the enviable record which has been achieved. Ground personnel have worked willingly and enthusiastically for long hours in order that the Wing might fully accomplish its mission. Backed by the ground organization, the air personnel have, through their courage and technical skill, reached their objectives to achieve commendable results with great consistency, despite all handicaps of enemy opposition and weather.

Annex #3

5. The splendid record established by the 325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance and its units constitutes an accomplishment for which all who contributed may be justly proud.

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)  
DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

/s/ J.H. Doolittle  
/t/ J.H. DOOLITTLE  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.  
Commanding

Annex #3 (Cont'd)

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 634

Subject: Commendation.

4 October 1944

To : Commanding Officers, All Organizations, Eighth Air Force.

It is indeed most gratifying for me to transmit to you and the members of your command the attached letters, both of which are self explanatory.

I feel sure that each member of this Air Force will be proud of these letters and I know that we all realize the responsibility which rests upon us in rendering support to the forces under General Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander.

It is my wish that this correspondence be reproduced by Station Commanders for Organization Commander and copies be furnished them for distribution to each member of their command.

/s/ J.H. Doolittle  
/t/ J.H. DOOLITTLE  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.  
Commanding

2 Incls:

- 1 - Letter from Gen Eisenhower to Gen Spaatz
- 2 - Letter from Gen Spaatz to Gen Eisenhower

Annex #4

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
Office of the Supreme Commander

28 October 1944

Dear General Spaatz :

By direction of the Combined Chiefs of Staff the U.S. Strategic Air Forces are no longer operationally responsible to SHAEF Headquarters, Nevertheless this whole Command will continue with entire confidence to look to General Doolittle and the Eighth Air Force for the same type of prompt and effective cooperation as that organization has constantly exhibited throughout the preparatory stages of the invasion as well as during its actual execution.

The Strategic Air Forces have not only answered every call made upon them, cheerfully, promptly and effectively but have taken the lead in discovering new means and methods whereby they could help toward the attainment of common objectives.

I hope that every member of the Strategic Air Forces may have personal assurance of my lasting gratitude and will realize that this whole Command feels indebted to them for examples of unexcelled courage, skill and perfection in cooperation.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower (Signed)

Lt. General Carl Spaatz  
Commanding General  
U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe  
APO 633, U.S. Army

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #4 (Cont'd)



HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AIR FORCES IN EUROPE  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 633

30 September 1944

Dear General Eisenhower:

The expression of your appreciation for the work of the Strategic Air Forces contained in your letter of September 28th will be deeply appreciated by every officer and man in that organization. You know, I am sure, how much I personally value the commendation you have given to the personnel under my command.

During all the long days of the air assault against Germany leading up to the invasion itself, your appreciation of the value of strategic bombing made it possible for us to do this part of our job. I am sure I express the feelings of my entire command when I say that they are proud to have been able to make this contribution to the success of your ground forces.

By decision of the Combined Chiefs of Staff the Strategic Air Forces are no longer operationally responsible to you. Regardless, however, of any chain of command which may be set up, I know that you realize that you can count not only on the same full measure of support you have enjoyed in the past, but that the strategic forces under my command will redouble their efforts to see that every possible support is given to your forces.

Every member of the Strategic Air Forces will be proud to receive your expression of gratitude which I am passing on to the.

(Signed) Sincerely,  
CARL SPAATZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Supreme Commander  
Allied Expeditionary Force

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #4 (Cont'd)

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Lt. Col. E.J. Gallagher,  
942nd Engrs.  
AAF Station 101.

Camp Lynn Aeroclub.  
October 8th '44

Dear Colonel Gallagher,

I have felt for sometime that I would like to write to you of our appreciation of the 942nd Eng. Band, under the direction of Sgt. Stillwell. They have played a number of times for Dances and Jam Sessions at the Club and in the Gymnasium, and I know that they have added tremendously to the good spirits that we have sometimes achieved here.

I cannot say too much about their cheerfulness and co-operative manner, and we are looking forward to having them again for future programmes at the Club. Incidentally, I believe that they will be about the only orchestra available for such purposes at the Camp, as the Flying Yanks, the 8th Air Forces orchestra will soon be leaving on an extended tour.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Catherine G. White  
/t/ Catherine G. White  
Club Director.

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #5

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION ELG/hmb  
AAF STATION 101

201.22

10 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Commendation of Captain Harold A. Reynolds

TO ; Commanding Officer, 325th Photographic Wing,  
Reconnaissance,  
APO 634.

1. Shortly after activation the 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion was given the task of maintaining a Map Library for use of the various units and sections of the Wing. Captain Harold A. Reynolds was placed on Detached Service with this Battalion from the 1st AAF P.I.D. for the purpose of organizing this Map Library. Using untrained personnel and limited equipment, Captain Reynolds was highly successful in placing the library on an operational basis in a minimum of time and at the same time training personnel to operate this library efficiently.

2. By long hours of work Captain Reynolds was further successful in obtaining scarce maps needed for highly important operational work on extremely short notice.

3. Captain Reynolds devotion to duty and his spirit of cooperation with both British and American agencies are highly commendable.

4. It is requested that this letter be forwarded to his present Commanding Officer and be made a part of the 201-file of Captain Reynolds.

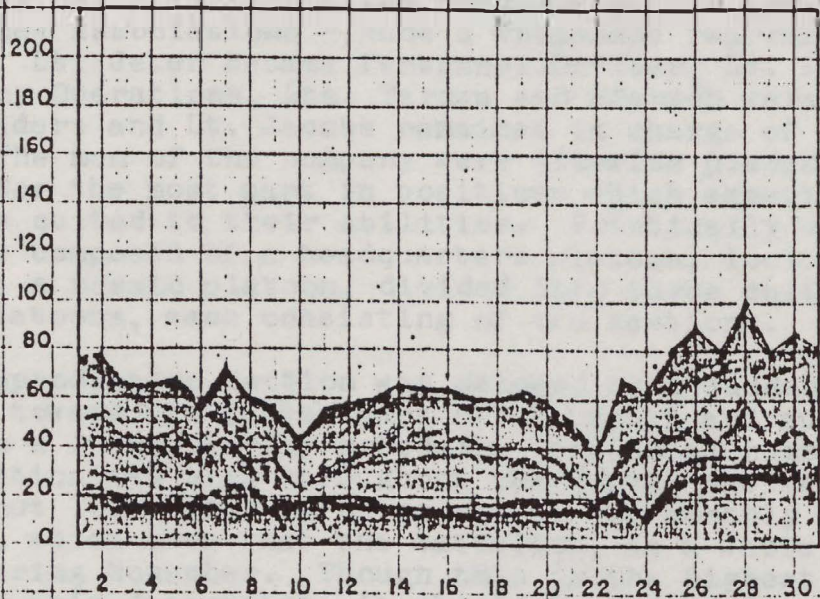
/s/ Edward J. Gallagher  
/t/ EDWARD J. GALLAGHER  
Lieut. Colonel, C.E.  
Commanding.

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #6

# JOBS & DISTRIBUTION OCT. 1944



TOTAL JOBS IN BN.  
 JOBS IN DRAFTING  
 JOBS IN REPRODUCTION

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 - U. S. ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944)

The month of November brought no major changes in any section of the battalion. The type of work, the quantity of production, the personnel, the methods previously developed - all remained approximately as before. The established routines were providing efficient enough to meet the demands of a situation in which no new or special type of work was called for.

Company "A" - to inject the enthusiasm that comes as a result of new associations - made a wholesale rearrangement of personnel. Lt. Jeter became Personnel Officer, Lt. Lowe took over Company Operations, Lts. Tarcza and Pfersch were made platoon leaders and Lt. Jacobs remained in charge of the Mosaic Section. The men of the company were likewise placed in new sections, for the most part in positions which experience had shown to be suited to their abilities. Practically speaking the company was composed of a headquarters platoon; including operations; a mosaic platoon, divided into three shifts; and two drafting platoons, each consisting of two sections.

The Reproduction section was deluged by a sudden influx of heavy work toward the latter part of the month and quickly reverted to a 24 hour-a-day schedule. The total number of jobs in Reproduction was high throughout the month, the weekly average running about 100. This is borne out by the monthly production statistics, which show that the battalion, as a whole, completed 518 jobs during November. Though this is the highest figure ever attained in this department, it should be stated in complete fairness that the number of jobs completed is not an accurate representation of the entire output when it is not weighed with the figures for the number of plates, impressions, negatives, etc. These totals, though impressively high for November, are not outstanding. A production chart for the month is attached. (Annex no.1)

A new type of Flak map showing both heavy and light flak positions and the range of the anti-aircraft defenses in the Berlin and Leipzig areas, to be easily read by pilots of fighter craft and navigators of bombers on tactical missions, was designed and initiated by the drafting section. The density and location of all available flak areas was drafted in distinctive colors and overlaid on the standard G.S.G.S. 4072 Air Maps. These maps were designed at the request of Lt. Col. Kretz, Anti-Aircraft Officer of the Eighth Air Force and delivered to Lt. Col. Garrett, Map Officer, 8th Air Force, for distribution.

A semi-controlled photo-mosaic covering an area of 3 or 4 miles on each side of the Rhine River from Cologne to Unna was

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

among the work produced by the mosaic section. A total area of approximately 240 square miles was covered, involving the laying of 53 contact prints and 379 ratioed prints over 1:10,000 base map. All towns of importance were annotated on the mosaic. Contact prints of finished charts were sent to FAAA, OCE, Mosaic Library Medmenham, and to Lt. Col. Fuller of the 12th A.P.I.D. in France.

A commendation for our Reproduction unit for its excellent offset printing was received from Lester Armour, commander, USNR, Deputy Director of the Office of Strategic Services, ETOUSA. He expressed the appreciation of the OSS for the maps which we processed for them, noting especially the high quality and outstanding registry accomplished. (Annex no. 2) From Brigadier A.G. Walch, Headquarters, Airborne Troops, England, came a short but sincere tribute addressed to Col. Gallagher: "I am writing to thank you for the high standard reproduced for us." (Annex no 3) Our popular dance band drew another letter of praise, this time from Daniel K. Phippen, Major, Air Corps, Commanding, Hq. and Hq. Squadron, 325th Photographic Wing, Reconnaissance, who expressed his appreciation for the excellent music provided by the 942nd band at squadron parties. (Annex no. 4)

On 5 November Captain Stewart went on TD for 7 days to attend an Information and Education Officers' school in London on Planning and Training for troops after VE-Day. On 9 November T/Sgt George L. Himebaugh, Tec 5 John J. McGee and Tec 5 David H. Emerick went on TD for 15 days on a transportation mission in Frances.

The winter sports program hit full stride as basketball again came into the picture. So far only a Wing competition has been started, but it is expected that a team will later be formed from the entire recon Wing to compete for ETO honors. Three teams represent the 942nd in the Wing tournament - Company "A", H&S Company and the Engineer Officers. The victory-hungary Company "A" quintet, sparked by S/Sgt Mendy Synder, former all-time basketball great of Temple University, is easily leading the league and is expected to sweep through their remaining schedule undefeated. The "H&S" team is battling for the runner-up position.

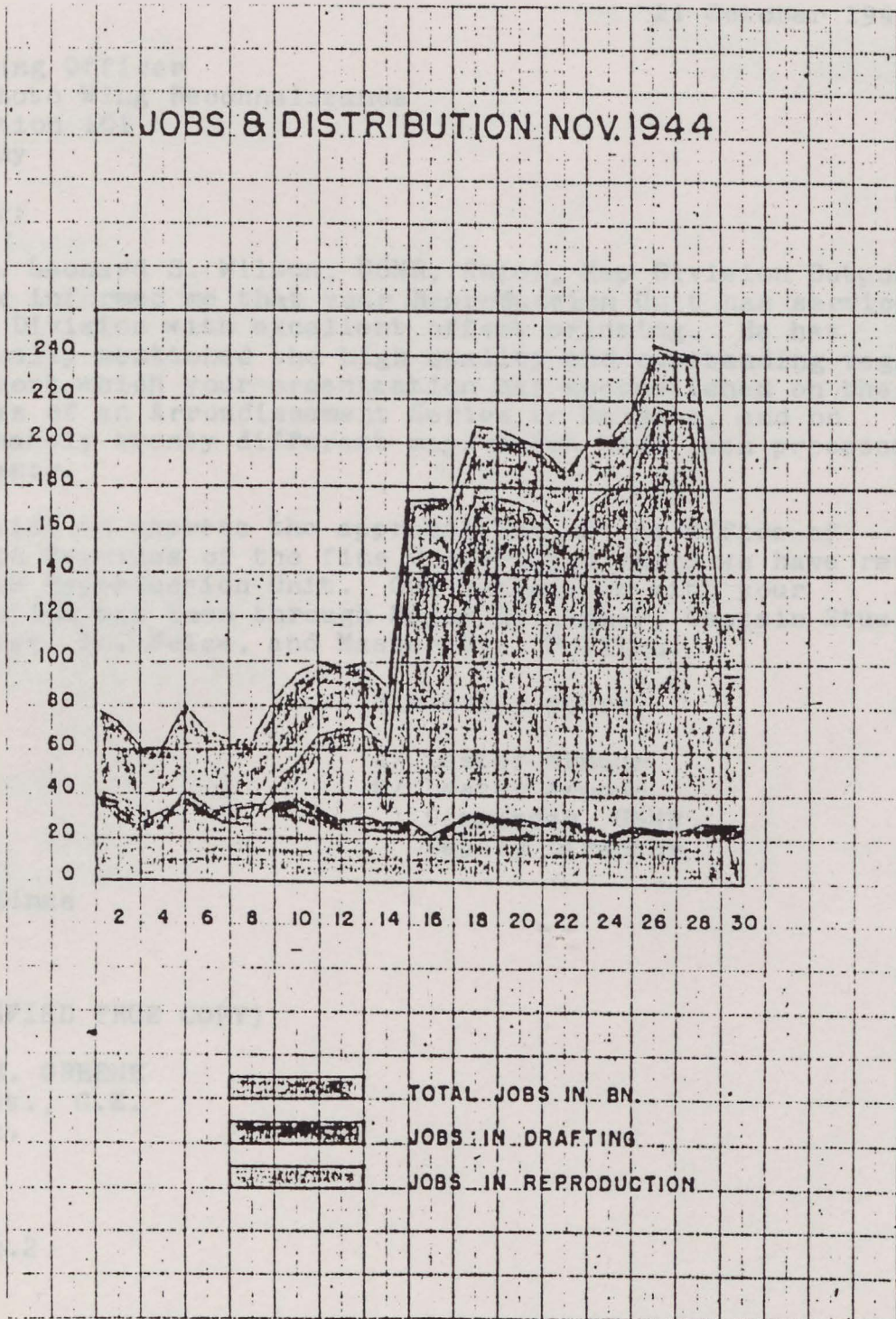
In the final Eighth Air Force Carbine Meet early in the month, the team representing Station 101, led by Lt. Pfersch and Tec 4 Eleuteri of the 942nd, captured first place. In the Command Competition however, the Headquarters Command team, also including Lt. Pfersch and Sgt Eleuteri, placed second.

Thanksgiving Day, 1944, brought with it the usual sumptuous turkey dinner, but this year there were no free packs of cigarettes passed out as the mysterious butt shortage hit the UK just about this time. Christmas was in the air as a flood of

packages arrived from home, and the battalion printed Christmas cards, designed by Tec 4 Abe Marckason, which were distributed 20 per man. Company "B" drew up plans for a gala party to be held in December and Company "A" planned to follow suit with one the following month. All the men began plotting ways and means of celebrating the Yuletide and New Year.



# JOBS & DISTRIBUTION NOV. 1944





HQ & HQ DETACHMENT  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
ETOUSA

21 October 1944

Commanding Officer  
325th Photo Wing Reconnaissance  
AAF Station 101  
U.S. Army

Dear Sir:

Lt. Leonard S. Wilson, USNR, Chief, Map Division Outpost, R&A, has informed me that your Reproduction Unit has serviced the OSS Map Division with excellent offset printing. He has specifically mentioned the high quality and outstanding registry of the work which your organization has accomplished on the seven negatives of an Arrondissement Series on Belgium, and on approximately twenty different maps which have been processed by your agency.

I wish to express the appreciation of the Office of Strategic Services of the fine Cooperation which we have received from your Reproduction Unit. Our connection with your organization has been through Major Gallagher, Captain Stuart, Lt. George, Lt. Price, and Master Sgt. Pollino.

Sincerely yours,

s/ Lester Armour  
t/ Lester Armour  
Commander, USNR  
Deputy Director

HVBKLINE:mas

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex no.2

From: Brigadier A.G. WALSH, O.B.E.

Headquarters,  
Airborne Troops,  
APO, ENGLAND

HQ AirTbs/2002/2/G/(Gen)

Dear Gallagher,

I am writing to thank you for the high standard of work evidenced by your battalion in the maps of Holland which were recently reproduced for us. They will add considerably to the appearance of the report on operations in Holland which we are issuing.

Yours Sincerely,

s/ A.G. Walch

Lt-Colonel E.J. Gallagher,  
942 Bn Photo Air Special,

c/o Captain Hickey, FAAA.

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex #3

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON  
325th Photo Wing. Reconnaissance  
APO 634

DKP/mr

22 November 1944

SUBJECT: Dance Band

TO : Commanding Officer, 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn, APO 634, US Army.

1. This letter is to express the appreciation for the use of the 942nd Engr dance band at the squadron parties. In the several parties that this organization has had the band has played excellent music and added that extra zest that makes every party a success.

s/ Daniel K. Phippen  
t/ DANIEL K. PHIPPEN,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Commanding.

(A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

DONALD E. GREENE  
1st Lieut., C.E.  
Adjutant.

Annex no. 4

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 - U.S. ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944)

The month of December will long be remembered by the men of the 942nd Engineers. It will stand out forever like a sore thumb. It will serve to remind all of us that "it can happen here". It could, and it did! It was during this month that we received the greatest set back that an outfit of this type could possibly expect. On the 29th, at approximately 1230 hours, a fire of undetermined origin almost completely destroyed the reproduction plant. Quick and valiant work by a mere handful of men saved our entire trailer fleet from the same fate as that of the building. The blaze was discovered at a time when the majority of the men were at their noonday meal. Before assistance could be summoned, the building was a raging inferno. The angry, red flames, leaping thirty feet into the air, engulfed the hut rapidly, and only thru brilliant and back-breaking work were we able to confine the fire to this one building. The loss was not only felt in valuable equipment, but thousand of man hours, in the shape of finished jobs, negatives and other material went up in the blazing inferno as well. Plans to rebuild were instigated on the spot, and the Battalion, although having suffered a tremendous loss, dug in with the tenacity and fortitude it was always shown, and expected to have the ball rolling within a short time. The fire came at a time when the personnel had previously been jolted with the news that fifty percent of the outfit were to be molded into a new unit of detachment and sent to the "Far Shore" to work with the 9th Air Force and the 12th Army Group. This new move naturally sapped up many valuable man hours that would have been devoted to production under normal conditions, but was instead devoted to boxing up equipment and other numerous jobs that go with getting an outfit ready to ship. These two havocs had the whole outfit practically in a turmoil.

Regardless of these two developments, both of which came toward the end of the month, the high standard of production, both in quantity and quality and at maximum speed was maintained. Company A had one of its lightest months on record as far as drafting was concerned. The Japanese project, much of which was later consumed by fire, occupied the focal point. Along with this, a map of Central London and the London Area was prepared for the Office of Chief Engineer. Navigation charts were prepared for the 8th Air Force. A large amount of drafting was entailed in turning out several annotated Photo Maps for the First Allied Airborne Army. In the Mosaic section of Company A,,

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

the men continued to plug away on a twenty-four hour schedule. Mosaic No. 71, covering 794 square miles and involving the laying of 1188 prints was made for the 12th Army Group. This was later destroyed by fire and work was begun immediately to reconstitute the lost job. This job had been a jonaah all along, and all the men had given a sigh of relief when it was finally completed. When it was learned that all this work went up in smoke, the men were sick. Aside from this, six Training Target Mosaics were completed for Control Section. These involved a total of 3,177 prints and covered 17,447 square miles.

Company "B" turned out another impressive record. During the month 996 plates were made, 1,484,915 impressions were struck and the result was 1,481,654 copies delivered. Outstanding jobs, other than routine, i.e., Damage Assessment, Target Victory, Tactical Target and such, were two maps for AEA, 1:1,000,000 Military Grid maps. These two maps took 28,000 impressions each. The town plan of Wanne-Eichle, reproduced for the Office of Chief Engineer involved 22,000 impressions. Annotated Town Maps or Mosaics for FAAA, accounted for 63,500 impressions, resulting in 44,000 copies. A section of Reproduction, often unheralded, but turning out a tremendous amount of work, is the Photostat section. During the month 18,718 photostat positives and 1998 photostat negatives were produced. This was not a record month in that department, so we can easily see that this crew really have their hands full. Included is a production graph for the month of December (Annex 1).

From another "quiet" corner of the Battalion comes this impressive report. The Photo Library Section under the supervision of Lt. William Sinclair received 462 new sorties, issued 14,094 maps and traced 1,861 sorties from Medmenham trace sheets. Just another feather in our cap, this smooth working Photo Library team of H & S Company.

On the social calendar was the gala New Year's Ball given by H & S Company. The part, held at the Byron Hotel, Northolt, was a smashing success. The hall decorated with the Yuletide colors and a splash of 1945, was done in cabaret style. Trucks fetched the beautiful English lassies from as far as Richmond and Malden. Trucks also brought girls from Slough, Windsor and High Wycombe, as well as the WACs from Headquarters, 8th Air Force. A master of ceremonies in the person of Mr. Leslie Mitchell, commentator for British Movietone News, greatly added to the intermission frivolities. Cigarette girls, in brief costumes, caught the eye of many G.I.s as they scampered here and there dishing out free smokes. The girls were furnished by Denham Studios.

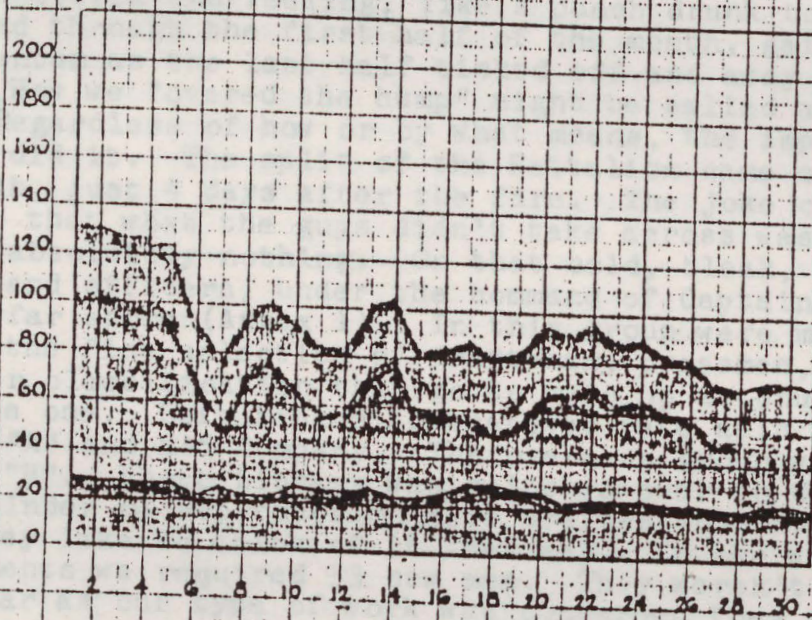
Again to the forefront went the eagle eyes of the Battalion. In a pistol match for the Station Championship, held on the Home Guard Pistol Range, Thursday and Friday, December 14th and 15th, Company A of the 942nd Engineers against a field of ten teams copped the honors, shooting 1283.6 out of a possible 1500. H & S

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

Company ran a close second with 1274.3, and Company B took fourth with 1206.2. Individual honors went to Lt. Frank Tarcza of Company A with a top score of 268.3, for the top score of the Battalion. Pfc Charles Rathsom was second with 265.5. Four men made expert and eleven made sharpshooter from the Battalion alone.

In the field of Basketball, Company A continued to lead the post league. This flashy, fast breaking quintet paced by former Temple University star, Mendy Snyder, continued to bowl over all opposition. H & S Company, though handicapped by a poor turnout of aspirants held its own, and came back for more. As 1945 approached all the men were confident that they would all do their utmost to aid in producing victory in 1945.

# JOBS & DISTRIBUTION DEC. 1944



TOTAL JOBS IN BN.  
 JOBS IN DRAFTING  
 JOBS IN REPRODUCTION

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

11 Feb 45

UNIT HISTORY

(1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945)

January, the month of recovery and adjustment. That was the sum of a bad situation for the portion of the battalion left in the UK. Recovery from the disastrous fire of late December and Adjustment to the loss of trained personnel and the acquisition of new men. Not only were they new, but just as green as grass. Gloom was as thick in the Engineer Area as the fog in London Town. Battered and reeling, like a punch drunk boxer, the unit staggered through the first half of the month, gained new spirit and momentum as the last half ticked off and away it's dying hours. How we "overed the hump" might be called a miracle by some. Regardless of how or by what means, the important thing is that we did it. The split of the Battalion came on the 2nd of the month, just 4 days after the fire. The joke of the Battalion then was that what the guys didn't take across was burned, leaving absolutely nothing. On that cold, bleak, January morn 264 men and officers, under the command of Captain Marson left for the far shore (Annex 1). In this group were many key men, as well as the fine selection of draftsman, pressmen, mosaic men and all other classification that go to make up an unusual battalion like this one. Left behind to whatever fate held in store was Company "A" and H&S Company. The overseas group was tabbed Company "B". Photo Library was switched over to Company "A" and the remainder of Reproduction were drafted into H&S Company. At least they like to think of it that way. In the way of replacements we required 33 new men. They weren't new to the ETO but as far as our type of work was concerned they were rookies.

As the situation was surveyed that miserable January day, a day that was made even more miserable by a bitter cold wave that swept the country, it looked almost hopeless. A burned building, half the outfit gone to the far shore, green replacements and "unusual English Weather". What a quandry all these problems caused. Then came the straw that almost broke the camels back, no material to rebuild with. But, leave it to that ingenious Battalion Carpenter shop to perform the miracle. Technician Grade 5 Hilton, when, presented with the problem at hand, scratched his wiry head and then began the ordeal of scratching for lumber. No one asked how or why but he got the material needed just the same. The men threatened to hide their footlockers to prevent them being used on the reconstruction of the building. But Cpl Hilton; ably assisted by Technician Grade 4 Smolen, Cpl Cphus, and Pvts Hamilton and Gilbert, didn't quite resort to swiping footlockers. Soon the staccato of hammers and the rasp of saws could be heard all over the work area. Working



## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

in freezing weather, this mere handful of men accomplished the almost unbelievable and in a very short time had a "roof over their heads". All of the equipment had to be replaced and the supply section was busy trying to procure all they possibly could. They resorted to every trick known to the trade and they got what they went after. As soon as the frame of the building went up and a roof on, British electricians set to work wiring the building. A camera was procured from the 901st Engineers and was installed in our plant.

In the meantime the Reproduction Platoon was busy plugging away from their five trailers. A mere trickle of work grew steadily into an ever-mounting stream and by the 1st day of January business was restored to normal. As a matter of fact it was above normal considering the complement of personnel. Work had Piled up all the time the plant was crippled and a terrific backlog developed. In spite of all these difficulties an impressive record was made (Annex2). During the month a total of 371,395 impressions were made, furnishing 344,385 copies of printed copy. 418 negatives were shot and 313 plates were made. 132 contacts were turned out and the grainer knocked off 810 plates. That surely doesn't sound much like the work of an outfit that has been crippled! But therein lies the tale. Perhaps the most important job that Reproduction burned out in January was 22 base flak maps for Major Kramer in the War Office.

Up in Company "A", work was proceeding with vim, vigor and what have you. In the drafting room the 9th Air Force Base Flak maps occupied the center of attention. The men did a bang-up job on these and in near record time. Coupled with these 13 maps, 3 8th Air Force Base Flak maps had to be restripped. 5 8th Air Force Purple Flak maps, that is, both light and heavy flak, were also turned out. In the mosaic section, three shifts a day continued to plug away, laying 6,654 square miles of mosaics. Prints for coverage proved to be an obstacle and many weary hours were spent searching for better photos to improve the quality of the work. A very important job for the First Allied Airborne Army represented the major portion of the months activities.

Down in Current Sorties, 710 sorties were filed and there were 1710 sorties at Medmenhem. But these figures did not tell the true story on the section. Lieutenant Sinclair really had the guys gasping for breath as they worked 16 hours a day to clear an overflow of 9th Air Force Prints.

Social life in the Battalion was practically nill. The pub, whether it was the Falcon or the Whitehart continued to be the favorite off duty spot. An occasional twenty-four hour pass to London town provided a variety of amusements. The weather and that long walk back up the "hill" proved to be a good reason to stay by the fire. Furloughs were still dreams of the past,

UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

although no one seemed to know just why.

Unit basketball competition came to an end. The teams were pooled and a Wing team was formed. At a glance one would still suspect that it was a Battalion affair. Williams, Garrity, Jensen, Bragg and Snyder made up the 942nds contribution to the Wing team. An impressive record was being made. Nine wins and one loss represented the tally to date.

As far as could be determined there was nothing but zeros in the nuptial column for the month of January, but the 942nd still had quite a lead as far as binding Anglo-American relations were concerned.

NAME	REG	COMP	STATUS
Williams, Wm	1001	100	100
Garrity, J	1002	100	100
Jensen, A	1003	100	100
Bragg, B	1004	100	100
Snyder, S	1005	100	100

1. Organizational structure of the unit is as follows:
2. Organizational structure is maintained in accordance with the following:
3. Maintenance of the unit is as follows:
4. Maintenance of the unit is as follows:
5. Maintenance of the unit is as follows:
6. Maintenance of the unit is as follows:
7. Maintenance of the unit is as follows:
8. Maintenance of the unit is as follows:
9. Maintenance of the unit is as follows:
10. Maintenance of the unit is as follows:

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General

370.5

28 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Movement of Troops (No. 52).

TO : Commanding Officer, 325th Photo Wing, Reconnaissance,  
APO 634

1. Pursuant to verbal authority, Commanding General, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, the following organizations are directed to move from Station indicated to Virton, Belgium\*, on or about 2 January 1945.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>From AAF</u>	<u>Auth Strength</u>	
			<u>Sta</u>	<u>Off EM</u>
26th Sta Com Sq (Sp)	50175	112	11	92
2d Photo Tec Sq	52894	101	84	201
19th AAF Photo Intelligence Det	51312	101	43	49
Co "B" 942d Engr Avn Topo Bn	52902	101	11	253

\*Military coordinates: P-4011

Geographical location: 49 35' N and 5 33' E

2. Organizations will move at assigned strength.

3. Organizational equipment as prescribed in administrative Order No. 2, Hq Eighth Air Force, 23 December 1944, attached as inclosure No. 1, will accompany units.

4. Movements to be by air, rail, water and/or motor. TCNT TDN.

5. Movement of advance and rear parties will be made by air on operational orders of this headquarters. Movement of units less advance and rear parties by motor and water. Definite instructions as to date, time and method of ground movement will be issued by the Transportation Dept.

6. The following procurement authority is authorized to the extent necessary:

60-136 P 433; 01 (Personal Services), 02 (Travel), 03 (Transportation) 04 (Communications Services), 05 (Rents and utility Services), 07 (other Contractual Services), 08 (Supplies and Material), 212/50425.

7. The provisions of pamphlet, Hq European T of Opns, US Army, AG 531 Pub GD, subject: 'Railway Transportation in the UK', 24 June 1944; Sec IV, AR 345-400, 1 May 1944; par 6, Sec III, Adm Circular 66, Hq Services of Supply, European T of Opns, US Army,

Annex # 1

14 September 1943 and letter, Hq European T of Opns US Army, AG 370.5 OpCC, Subject: 'Teleprinter Reports of Troop Movements', 15 April 1944, will be complied with.

By command of Lieutenant General DOOLITTLE:

1 Incl: Adm O No. 2, Hq Eights Air Force  
s & t/ LINDSEY L. BRAXTON  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

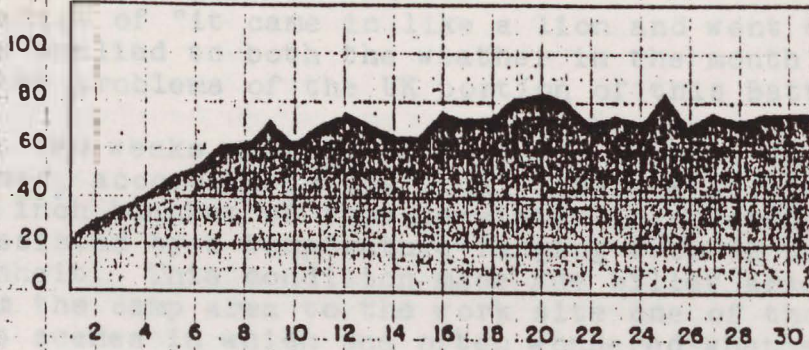
DISTRIBUTION: (over)

Annex #1 (Cont'd)

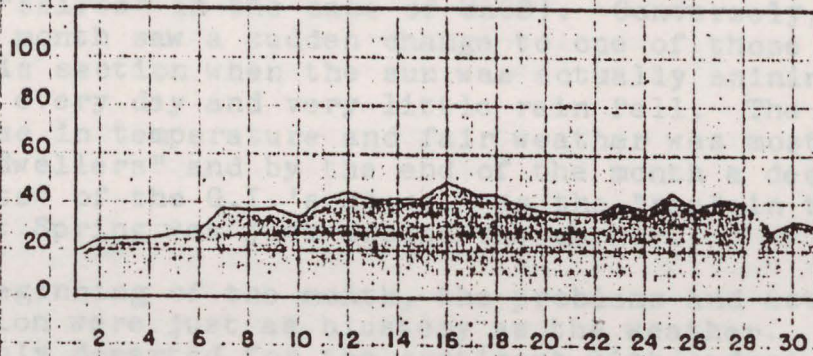
S E C R E T

# JOBS & DISTRIBUTION JAN. 1945

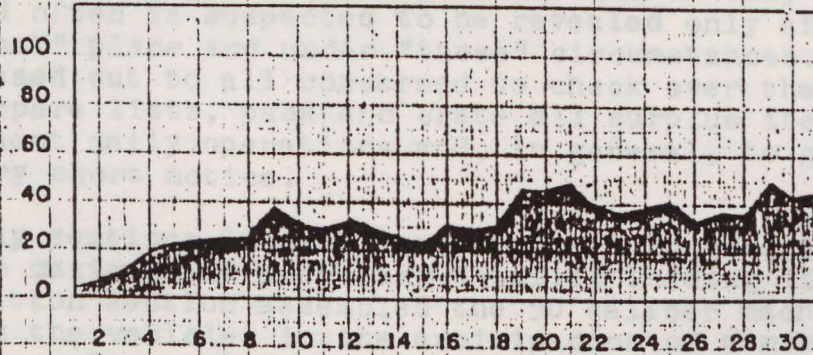
## TOTAL JOBS IN BN.



## JOBS IN REPRODUCTION



## JOBS IN DRAFTING



HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

17 March 1945

UNIT HISTORY

(1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945)

The old adage of "it came in like a lion and went out like a lamb" could be applied to both the weather in the month of February and the problems of the UK portion of this Battalion.

The first two weeks ushered in a period of that "most unusual" weather, according to the local inhabitants, in which a three or four inch blanket of snow persisted in covering the ground ably assisted by a temperature ranging from 12 to 25 degrees Fahrenheit. This condition made the billet area, road, and paths from the camp area to the work site one of those unrecognizable scenes in which one often wondered whether the would be actors were really trying to get to the latrine, to work, or simulating tobogganing on the seat of their G.I. trousers (or "skirts" in the case of WACS). Conversely, the middle of the month saw a sudden change to one of those rare periods in this section when the sun was actually shining somewhat most every day and very little rain fell. The consequent rise in temperature and fair weather was most welcome to the "tent dwellers" and by the end of the month a decided rise in the "spirits" of the G.I.'s as well as the "sap" in the trees, indicated that Spring was just around the corner.

At the beginning of the month, the problems and activities of the Battalion were just as blustery as the weather. The Colonel suddenly departed for the continent with orders left behind to immediately prepared the Battalion for a move to one of those places and under those circumstances that is only known to "someone", and often is suspected to be revealed only after arrival at "that" place and under "those" circumstances. The notice was passed out to all concerned to check over their equipment, prepare lists, pack and crate all surplus items not needed in present daily operations and, in general, to get ready to move on very short notice.

The supply sections labored long and hard in bringing supplies up to maximum and preparing detailed loading lists, etc. The transportation section assembled the 50 caliber machine gun ring mounts on the vehicles in the anticipation of a move into the combat zone. In a short time, all was in readiness and awaiting further orders. The Colonel returned about the 14th with no definite news and in a few days the move "fever" subsided and everything settled back to normalcy. By the end of the month that safe and secure feeling had again become paramount and the order of the day had become get the job in hand done and relax in

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

the local pub or with the favorite girl friend.

The beginning of the month marked the return to full operations after the disastrous fire on 29th December. Practically all needed equipment and supplies had been replaced and the new equipment had been tested and was ready for full operations.

One photostat machine resumed the copying of sortie traces and miscellaneous jobs and, by the end of the month, had produced 7,797 copies. This amount was within a few hundred of the monthly maximum produced by two machines in the past history of this organization. This was accomplished by 24 hour operations and a determined effort to wipe out the backlog of work that had accumulated since the loss of the old machine in the fire.

Considering the equipment and personnel as only half of the amount available before the transfer of "B" Company to the Far Shore, (in fact the equipment is slightly less than half in both amount and adaptability) this unit turned out a near record volume of work. See annex #1. The Reproduction Section completed 184 jobs, made 895 negatives, 452 plates, and printed 432,224 impressions. Not included in the above figures are numerous contact prints, film positives and miscellaneous work.

The Mosaic Section were very busy the first part of the month and laid 6,075 square miles of various mosaics. During the last week of the period this section had completed all requests and they had time to assist the regular drafting sections. It is hoped that more work for this section will follow soon as mosaics are among the most important and popular work assigned to this organization. They are a real morale booster to other sections as well as the Mosaic Section itself due to their immediate connection with battle operations and their consequent operational priority and classification.

The Photo-Library Section continued to work overtime on tracing 1129 sorties, supplying their around-the-clock service to the P.I. Section and at the same time, rearranging some 6,000 sorties in their files and preparing to transfer thousands more to permanent storage.

During the month an entirely new and outstanding Radar navigation Map was designed, developed and produced by the Operations Section under the specifications of Lt. Col. Geerlings, Director of Radar, and Lt. Col. Garret, Map Officer, both of 8th Air Force. This new map was produced for the purpose of facilitating use of "Eagle". Inasmuch as this new map can be used by H2X operators also, it may entirely replace the present standard series of special air navigation maps. Mountains, waterways and such cultural features as railroads and aerodromes not picked up by H2X are more readily discerned on Eagle,

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

therefore the need for a different design. Town shapes on the SAN maps are not sufficient for the "Eagle" and must be derived from different sources.

Due to the classification of "Eagle", too much information on detail requirements is not appropriate here. In general, the layout of the Radar Navigation Maps follows the 4th edition of the SAN maps. Each sheet still covers 2°20' of latitude and 4°20' longitude. The first sheet was reproduced and representatives of this unit and Lot. Col. Garrett's office visited Alconbury where it was being flight-tested. The conference resulted in no major changes or suggestions. However, further amendments will doubtless follow its operational use.

Highlighting the month's non-operational activities was the return home of Sgt. Fred Santopadre and Tec 4 Robert Van Lanen, the first two in the Battalion to receive the benefits of the War Department's new plan of a 30-day furlough in the U.S., and then back to the EM's organization. Needless to say, of GI's in the ETO over two years, every man in the Battalion was envious of the two lucky returnees but they certainly deserved it as both had over 33 months overseas service.

Major William Shira, the Battalion's Executive Officer, and Captain Ray Johnson, the S-4 under the old set-up, were relieved of assignment to Company B, reassigned to Hq & H & S Company, and placed on detached service with Company B on the Far Shore.

Second Lieutenants William Sinclair, Harold Steinhoff and Frank Pfersch made hurried trips to the PX to purchase silver bars as their promotions to 1st Lt., came through from 8th Air Force on the 1st of the month.

After the influx of new men that flooded the Administration Section of the Battalion during January, the boys that keep the records had an easy time of it during February as only one man, Private Melvin Kelly, a Medic, joined the battalion and was assigned to Hq & H & S Company.

Socially, things were dead although the veterans of the Battalion had their eyes turned toward the calendar where the date of 4 April loomed up. The 942nd will be a year old on that day and rumors were making the usual rounds that a party or some sort of celebration was in the offing.

On the athletic side of the ledger, the waning basketball season drew the efforts of S/Sgt Floyd Jensen, S/Sgt Mendy Snyder and Tec 5 John Williams as members of the Wing squad until the 8th Air Force tournament rolled around, when the Recon boys were eliminated and forced to stow away their togs. But the baseball season was right around the corner and, as usual, the Engineers were slowly but surely getting limbered up in preparation for it



UNIT HISTORY (Cont')

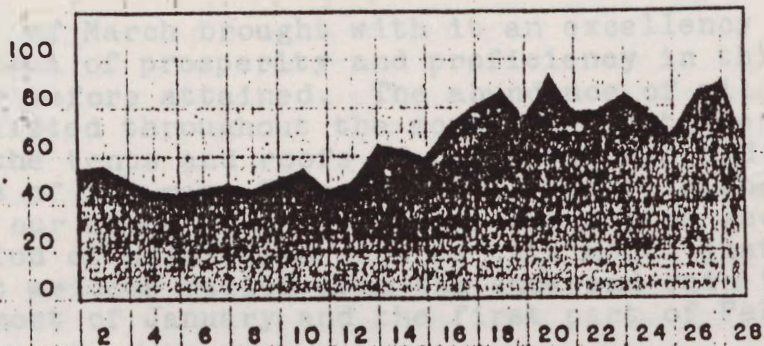
as last Summer they were the nucleus of a powerful Wing nine that was highly-feared among ETO opponents.

None of the boys took the "fatal step" during the month but there were several cases in the files that promised to keep the local clergymen busy in the near future. Furloughs were still a dream but hopes were high that the good old WDAGO form #31 may soon be put back into use.

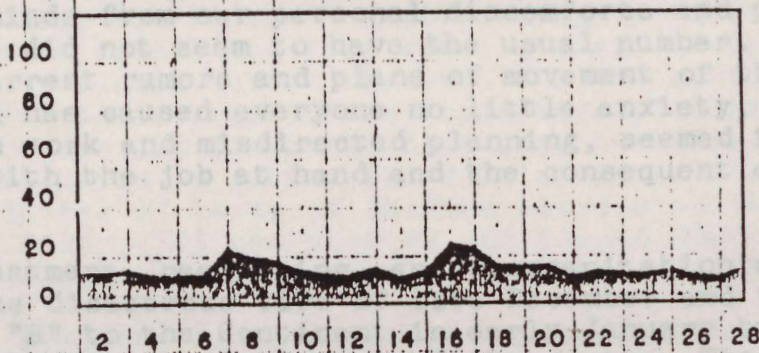
Despite the weather and the operational problems that had most of the "gang" running around in circles during the month, the morale of the Battalion was surprisingly high because the men were working as a well-knit team and the outfit more or less assumed the form of a large family that had its up and downs but always came through the difficulties with a smile.

# JOBS & DISTRIBUTION FEB. 1945

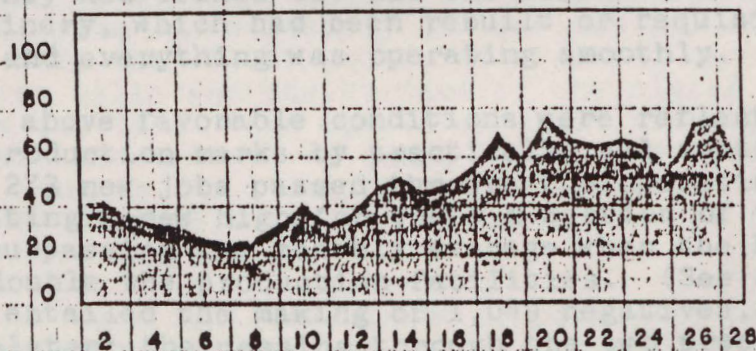
## TOTAL JOBS IN BN.



## JOBS IN DRAFTING



## JOBS IN REPRODUCTION



HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

20 April 1945

UNIT HISTORY

(1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945)

The advent of March brought with it an excellency in weather as well as an area of prosperity and proficiency in this Battalion never before attained. The abundance of mild, sunny weather that existed throughout the month seemed to permeate right through the tents and roofs of the workshops and into the minds and souls of the many GI's therein. Never in the almost three years of our abode in these climes can anyone recall a protracted period of balmy days such as this month just past. This was a most welcome relief from the snow and rain that beset us throughout most of January and the first part of February.

This mildness of weather coupled with the most favourable developments along the world wide battlefronts must have detracted our minds from our personal discomforts and problems, because we just did not seem to have the usual number. The previously recurrent rumors and plans of movement of this unit or that unit which has caused everyone no little anxiety, to say nothing of much work and misdirected planning, seemed to have been replaced with the job at hand and the consequent end of the European War.

The readjustment, reequipping, and reorganization made necessary by the disastrous fire of late December and the movement of Co "B" to the Continent in early January had been fully accomplished by the beginning of the month. The men had learned to operate as a new team with their new associates and supervisors. They had ironed out all the kinks in the new production machinery, which had been rebuilt or requisitioned since the fire and everything was operating smoothly.

All of the above favorable conditions were reflected by the shattering of production marks by practically all sections of the organization. 273 new jobs passed through the operations section this month, setting a new high for the U K Section of this Battalion and surpassing the monthly average when the Battalion operated with double the production facilities. (See annex #1) These 273 jobs entailed the making of 1,049 negatives, and corresponding plates; the passing through the two presses of 906,560 sheets and gave the grand total of 729,038 final copies of the jobs delivered to the customers. The big customers again this month were USS TAF, Air Ministry, 8th AF, 9th AF, and 325th PWR. The one reproduction section that comes thru for special mention this month is the photostat. These boys really burned the midnight oil as well as used up more than their allotted share

of photostat paper in turning out the staggering sum of 25,473 copies of sorties plots and related data for the 325th PWR PI section. This record more than doubles the previous high mark when two photostat machines were employed in the so called rush days just prior to and after D-Day.

The mosaic section of the drafting company were not too busy for the most part but really showed their experience and training in the production of two rush mosaics of areas just in front of our advancing troops into the heart of Germany. It is no little consolation to this section to reflect that their past labor on such mosaics on Rhine River, Coblenz, and Duisburg may have materially aided our troops' entry across the Rhine and into those cities. They only await such future requests for cities on the road to Berlin and to hear the climax that one GI was aided by the mosaic of Berlin which has long been prepared for just that purpose.

The photo-library section under Lt W.F. Sinclair kept up its 24 hour routine of duty along with the added responsibility of preparing and moving to permanent storage at Neunam of approximately 8,000 sorties. Some of these sorties which had long since lost their operational usefulness due to their location in France, had become a major storage problem. It was a standing joke that some boxes were showing signs of wear from the numerous moves to places out of the way. By the middle of the month all these dead storage sorties were safely in Neunam with the hopes of the harried personnel that they had finally been placed in the archives to gather the dust of time. In line with their routine duties of being of maximum service to the PI Sections, they filed 1313 new sorties and traced 3429 new sorties from the trace sheets in Medmenham.

The plate graining section of the reproduction platoon also come in for honorable mention this month. The harsh sounding noise of sand against metal seldom subsided for one moment during the month and the final count showed 899 zinc plates grained for our organization plus approximately 350 for OSS and Strategic Bomb Surveys. More than 3,000 pounds of graining sand passed between the steel balls and the surface of the plates which is a record for this section. Once again the skill of man, in employing the abrasive effect of sand, water, and steel balls on a softer metal such as the zinc plate, has conserved priority material and made reuseable an item essential in the reproduction of maps.

Our request for a full compliment of personnel was finally realized during the month with the assignment of limited service personnel fresh from the U.S. and a few men from infantry combat duty. This addition of largely duty soldiers was a most welcome one in that the technicians were more or less relieved of routine company duty and thereby permitted to devote full time to technical work. Company duty has always been a handicap to the production sections and it is now hoped and believed that

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont 'd)

production figures will rise perhaps even more than the morale of the technicians themselves.

The lure of a commission drew two NCO's from our ranks when Tec 3 Paul A. Griffith of Company A and Sgt Asa P. LeBlanc of H&S Company applied for Infantry OCS and were accepted. They were sent to the 9th Reinforcement Depot on the Far Shore for the gruelling three-month instruction period.

The first enlisted man of the battalion to receive the Bronze Star Medal was Pfc William A. Jirout who earned the award in combat as a member of the First Division in Belgium before coming to the 942nd as a Limited assignment man. Pfc Jirout was honored for deliberately drawing hostile fire when his outpost was attacked by a numerically superior force, thus enabling his automatic-rifle team to maneuver to more advantageous terrain and repulse the enemy thrust with severe casualties. Good Conduct Medals were award to Sgt Eulus E. Wright, Tec 4 William J. Jaeger, Cpl Felix J. Miller, Tec 5 George R. Degnan, Tec 5 Thomas J. Geraghty, Tec 5 Reuben J. Lindman, Tec 5 Jack C. Meyers, Tec 5 Americo J. Savino, Tec 5 Nicholas Schneider, Tec 5 Leonard C. Shepherd, Pfc Alfred Ball, Pfc Ira S. Shue, Pvt dominic Bianchino, Pvt David Boullion, and Pvt Amon N. Snyder of H&S Company and Tec 3 Joseph Bogis, Tec 4 John G. Laird, Tec 4 Albert Mara, Tec 5 Ralph C. Everman, Pfc Denzil G. Folyer and Pfc Chester J. Sulenski of Company A.

The biggest social event of the month was the wedding of Tec 5 Thomas J. Poullot of H&S Company to Miss Virginia Pattinson, a local girl, on 10 March. Many of the boys attended the ceremony and then helped the bride and bridegroom celebrate at a reception that followed. Furloughs were still non-existence although rumors were running rampant that they were due back soon. The local pubs and dance halls were still getting plenty of play from the "942nd gang" as the great weather resulted in most of the men having an early touch of "spring fever."

With the basketball season completed, the athletic-minded Engineers turned their attention to baseball. The wing nine started practice during the last week of the month and Tec 5 John Williams, Tec 5 John McConahey, Tec 5 Wallace D. Avriett, Pfc Jule E. Gofdinier and Pfc Richard L. Klingonsmith of the Battalion were vieing for positions. The tennis courts also drew a fair share of the boys who competed on an informal basis.

As the European War apparently headed toward its final stages, the officers and enlisted men of the battalion were in "top shape" as far as morale was concerned. With the Battalion's first birthday just around the corner, the personnel were naturally proud of their achievements for the past year and convinced that their efforts had contributed no end to the 8th Air Force's destruction of Germany targets. And, as could only

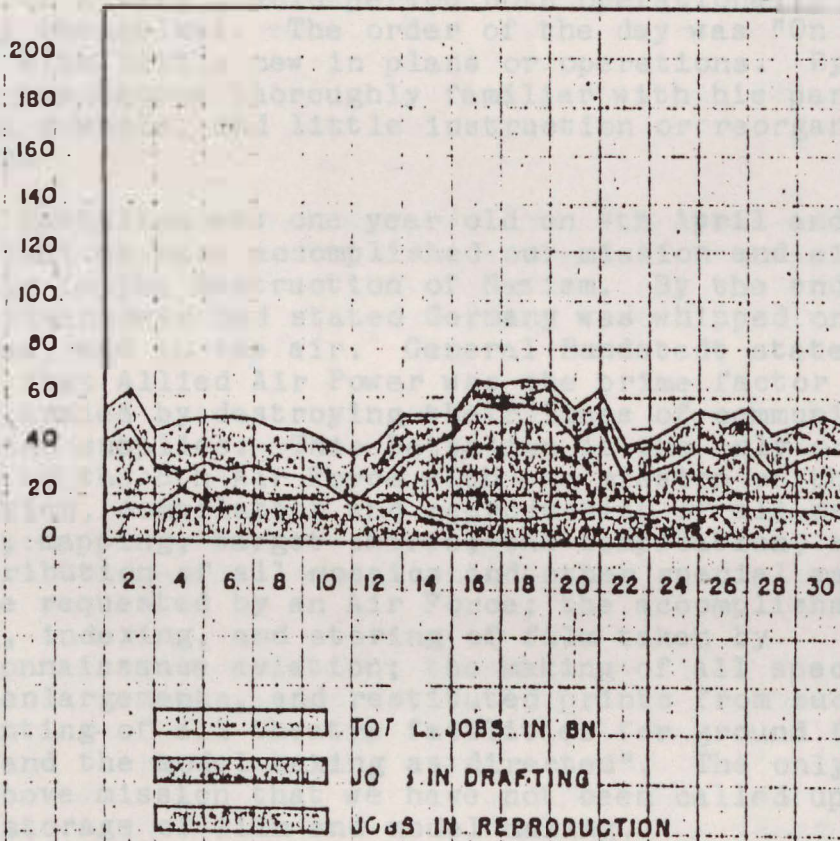
be expected with complete victory in sight, many minds were given over to thoughts as to what the future held in store--a trip home, a longer stay in the UK or elsewhere. The latter idea caused the men to look with scorn upon the new song "Lets Take the Long Way Home."

NO. 3 DISTRIBUTION MARCH 1945



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# JOB & DISTRIBUTION MARCH 1945



Annex # 1

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

19 May 1945

U. K. SECTION ONLY  
UNIT HISTORY

(1 April 1945 to 31 April 1945)

The mild weather and other favorable developments so prominently mentioned in last month's history continued throughout the month of April. All things combined again resulted in a very placid period both operationally and to the personnel themselves. The order of the day was "On with the job on hand" with little new in plans or operations. By this time everyone has become thoroughly familiar with his part in the scheme as a whole, and little instruction or reorganization was necessary.

The Battalion was one year old on 4th April and can modestly reflect that we have accomplished our mission and aided materially in the destruction of Nazism. By the end of the month General Eisenhower had stated Germany was whipped on the ground, on the sea, and in the air. General Rundstedt stated, on his capture, that Allied Air Power was the prime factor in the defeat of their armies by destroying their lines of communications, oil storage and supplies. This Battalion is the only organization assigned to the 8th Air Force with the mission of the "preparation, compilation and reproduction of all necessary charting, mapping, target charts; the compilation, reproduction and distribution of all mosaics and other special map information as may be requested by an Air Force; the accomplishment of all plotting, indexing, and storing of film taken by photoreconnaissance aviation; the making of all special contact prints, enlargements, and restituted prints from such film; the supplementing of all theatre facilities for ground forces in mapping and the model making as directed". The only two phases of the above mission that we have not been called upon to perform are the storage of film and model making.

However routine an every-day job may seem at times, every member of this organization can take pride in the fact that he is in some way contributing to the success of the strategic warfare about which General Rundstedt frankly admitted. Such maps as Special Air Navigation both the 1:500,000 and 1:1,000,000 plotting series, produced by this organization, have been carried by the navigators as an essential aid in navigating to their target and returning to their bases in England.

This month, the mosaic section was called upon to compile and reproduce a large scale mosaic of Berlin. The job, the largest ever assembled by this unit, was received on 9 April and



## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

will require about two months to complete. Laid to a scale of 1:5,000, this huge mosaic is composed of 270 sheets with 200 copies being reproduced of each sheet. Since the sheet index is too large to fit in the margin of the front side, each sheet will be backed up by a large-sized index, which will entail an additional 55,000 - 60,000 impressions. In addition to the half-tone negatives, continuous tone negatives are to be made. Major Bell of USS TAF will be the recipient of the major portion of the job, which is being run off entirely on coated stock.

No production records were broken this month but the following statistics reflect a full month of operational work turned out. One hundred and eighty three jobs were processed and delivered to the customers. The reproduction section produced 774 negatives, 509 plates, 569,000 impressions, 924,953 copies, 19,492 photostats, 1,968 projection prints and 727 plates grained. The drafting section prepared all copy for the reproduction section.

The mosaic section completed the laying of 2,224 square miles of mosaics and were busily engaged in the laying of a 270 sheet job of Berlin. The photo library kept up its 24 hour operation and filed 1,114 sorties and traced 3,298 sorties at Medmenham. (see annex#1)

Supply and maintenance problems were normal this month. No particular difficulties arose and at the end of the month ample equipment and supplies were on hand to meet any expected work. Near the end of the month the British supply of photostat paper was cancelled and immediate arrangements were made to procure enough American paper to meet anticipated needs for several months.

On the social side of the scale, the 942nd "gang" started the month off with the proverbial bang. The unit was a year old on 4 April so, as is usually the case, it had a celebration. Due to the fact that no suitable place was obtainable on 4 April, the affair was held the night before at the Ambassador Cinema, at Cippenham, on the Bath Road near Slough. The famed 8th Air Force band, The Flying Yanks, played for dancing and the huge crowd of GI's were treated to good music, plenty of good beer and a varied assortment of sandwiches and cakes. The boys brought plenty of comely English girls as guests and 1st Lt. Frank Pfersch, in charge of arrangements, made a ten-strike with the stags by inviting 50 WRENS from London. Needless to say, a lot of the "gang" were heard uttering nautical terms for the next few days. The remainder of the committee, which did a bang-up job, was composed of T/3 Bulletin (chairman), M/Sgt Lowy, T/Sgt Himebaugh, S/Sgt Birkenbuel, S/Sgt Bell, S/Sgt Hanft, S/Sgt Snyder, S/Sgt Werner, T/3 Pufahl, Sgt Hardy, T/4 Jaeger, T/4 Ligouri, T/4 Callas, T/4 Dixon, T/5 Brezosky, T/5 Avriett, T/5 Phelps and Pfc Agnello.

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

Athletically speaking, the Engineers were very much in the thick of things. S/Sgt Snyder, T/5 McConahey, T/5 Avriett, T/4 Arden and Pfc Klingensmith earned regular berths on the Wing nine which promised to be as strong if not stronger than the 1944 aggregation. Despite the lack of formal competition, a lot of the "gang" were seen cavorting on the base tennis courts and the neighboring golf courses.

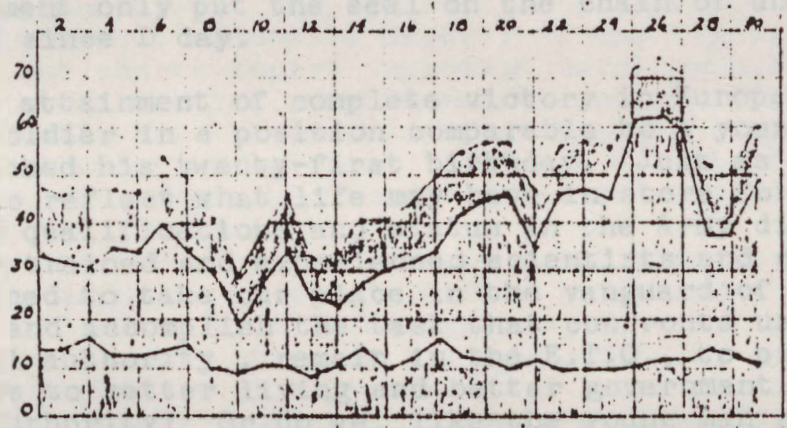
The biggest personnel change of the month was the forming of a separate detachment of the medical personnel previously assigned to Hq & H & S Company. Captain Vance M. Rothrock, MC, was designated as the commanding officer of the group which consisted of another officer and nine enlisted men. No change of station was involved.

Three new faces and an old one joined the 942nd during the month. The strangers were Sgt Frank Cappelluti, Pvt William F. Preban and Pvt Philip Sugarman. The former came direct from a topo outfit in the States while the latter two were limited assignment men from the infantry. The old familiar face was Pvt Thorndike Williams, who came from Company "B" on the Far Shore in a "trade" for Sgt Lester Wahlgren. The Battalion lost another man when Pvt James Simpson was transferred to the 25th Bomb Group at AAF Station 376.

Nine men drew a raise in pay during the month. They were T/5's Caena, Makaritis, Quinlan, Warner and Randayko, and Pfc Block, Karp, Sikorski and Woodard.

With the final bell almost ready to ring in the European Theatre, the morale and teamwork of the Battalion reached a new high. There was still plenty of work to be done and everybody buckled down to finish up their ETO commitments and face the future no matter what it brings. Mentally, their thoughts were focused on three sections of this old globe -- the U.S.A., Europe and the Pacific. Which one will it be?

# JOB FLOW CHART APRIL



- TOTAL JOBS IN DRAFTING
- TOTAL JOBS IN REPRODUCTION
- TOTAL JOBS IN BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

19 June 1945

U. K. SECTION ONLY  
UNIT HISTORY

(1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945)

Of course, the one incident that made history this month was "Victory in Europe" (V-E day). Complete victory as it was is the ultimate in war and is just compensation to each and every one of us who believes in a free and democratic way of life. Coming as it did in the early days of the month it was no surprise. In fact, it was more of an anti-climax to the events of the preceding few weeks. Modern communications being what they are had kept everyone fully aware of the imminent victory. The final announcement only put the seal on the chain of unbroken successes attained since D day.

The attainment of complete victory in Europe places the E.T.O. soldier in a position comparable to a young man who has just reached his twenty-first birthday. Just as the young man pauses to reflect what life may have in store for him, so do we. Does our qualifications and status in the Army dictate that we, like the trained and experienced scientists and construction men, be destined to take our place in the vanguard of the pacific, to pioneer and accomplish the task that confronts us? Or do we, like the civil authority, remain in the E.T.O., to provide the things conducive to better living and better government, as set out by higher authority? Or do we, like the young man going into his father's business, return to our USA and civilian status which we know and like so well. Regardless of our projected assignment there are two things paramount in our minds, first that there is still a fight to be won, and second and just as important, the peace that follows must provide that a war of this magnitude must not happen again.

Come V-E day, English weather, or "What have you", the work of Service Troops is never done. Many jobs were in process at the beginning of the month, and although a few were cancelled just prior too and after V-E day, the majority had to be completed (See Annex #1). At the end of the month, 112 jobs had been completed and thirty odd were in process. This is a considerable decline from 183 completed in April but the amount of work involved in accomplishing the same did not decline proportionally as reflected by the following statistics for May: Jobs 112; Negatives 1,182; Contact prints 93; Plates 429; Impressions 541,375; Copies 886,725; Photostat Negatives 150; Photostat Positives 3,263; Film positives 10; Sorties filed 635; Sorties traced at Medmenham 1,995; Square miles of Mosaics laid 530; Plates grained 594; Projection prints 531; VAn Dykes 13;

This is approximately a 10% overall reduction from April's statistics. This decline in volume of work cannot be attributed to a decline in working enthusiasm as might be expected at the cessation of hostilities. The men in general had become aware prior to V-E day that there would still be plenty of important work to be done and that preparation for moving would not begin immediately, so they accepted the work as such and continued with the task at hand. Three of four days were lost, and rightfully so, in celebrating V-E day.

Probably the most important job completed during the month was the 270 sheet Berlin Mosaic referred to in last month's history. The last print was laid on May 20, approximately 10 days ahead of schedule, and by the end of the month the completed job had been delivered to the customer. This turned out to be the largest and perhaps the best Mosaic laid by this section. It is hoped that the users will find it a valuable aid in the study and planning to meet the problems of the City of Berlin of today. Another large and important job started in the drafting section during the month was the preparation of drawings and charts to be reproduced into a composite history of the Eighth Air Force. The drawings and charts depict important developments and milestones in the history of that great Command, and to illustrate them as desired, calls for the best in draftsmanship, layout, and artistic blending of colors. This work will be fully discussed in next month's history since it is to be completed by 1st July.

Near the end of the month our monthly requisitions for expendable supplies were returned to us marked for the most part as non-available. Upon investigation, it was learned that most of our photographic supplies which we normally receive monthly had been shipped to or earmarked for other theatres. We were told by the supply section that there were no photographic organizations left in the U.K. Since this was rather interesting as well as disconcerting news to us, we investigated further.

By a little fast work, and procedures known only to experienced supply personnel, we soon built all necessary stocks up to a level of the expectancy of our stay in the U.K.

Four members of the UK-based contingent of the 942nd were handed the next best thing to a discharge during the month. The quartet - Capt. Elmore, M/Sgt Howe, Tec 3 Bulletin, and Tec 3 Bogis, all of "A" Company - left on pay day with bag and baggage for the United States to take over a photogrammetrist assignment at AAF Headquarters in Washington. Needless to say, the entire battalion watched sad-eyed as they departed. Two other 942nd "regulars" got their big chance this month. Sgt. Santopadre of "A" Company and Tec 4 Van Lanen of "H&S" Company, back in the Z of I on rotation and recuperation, were dropped from the rolls of their respective companies to presumably get permanent assignments in the States. This was done per instructions contained in an Eighth Air Force letter.

For practically the first time since its activation, the month went past without any additions to the battalion roster but the gang did lose the services of Leo Ware, the popular first sergeant of H & S Company, and Pfc Ira Shue of the same organization, who left for the states in order to be discharged under the over 42 years of age plan. F/Sgt Ware left a lot of tried and true friends in the ETO as he had been their top kick for over two years.

One other change in the personnel set-up took place when the members of the Medical Detachment, two officers and eight EM, were transferred to the Far Shore and attached to "B" Company in Belgium. A lone sad note was injected into the battalion proceedings, though a little remote, when news was received from the continent that Cpl Frank Hatchman, formerly of "A" Company, had been wounded in the arm just prior to V-E day as a member of the famed 89th Division. Thus Hatchman, who now has recovered, became the first ex-member of the 942nd to receive the Purple Heart.

As was only natural, V-E day celebrations captured the top spot on the month's social calendar. The battalion, as well as everyone in the wing, has a three day holiday when the announcement came. The base held a huge beer party as well as dances and other activities to entertain the GI's who were restricted to the post by Eights Air Force orders. Only those with families or invitations from friends were allowed out. During the remainder of the month, the usual town dances and the pubs drew their share of customers.

Athletically, things were practically the same as in the preceding month with several members of the battalion performing for the Wing baseball team and others competing informally in tennis, golf, track, swimming and softball.

Following close on the heels of V-E day came the War Department's long-awaited announcement of their point system affecting the discharge of the GI. As everyone knows by now, the total was set at 85 but it concerned only six men out of the battalion strength of 251 EM. The sextet, three from each company, were still sweating out their return to the states to exchange their OD's for civilian clothes and all the "rigors" of a non-military existence.

The morale of the battalion was not at as high a level as it was prior to and immediately after V-E day. With the war in Europe now over, the "gang" was getting a little restless sitting around and waiting to move in as much as over half the personnel were nearing their third year overseas. Their minds were set on going home and the uncertain future as to their ultimate objective to the Pacific via the US or to Germany as a member of the OAF.

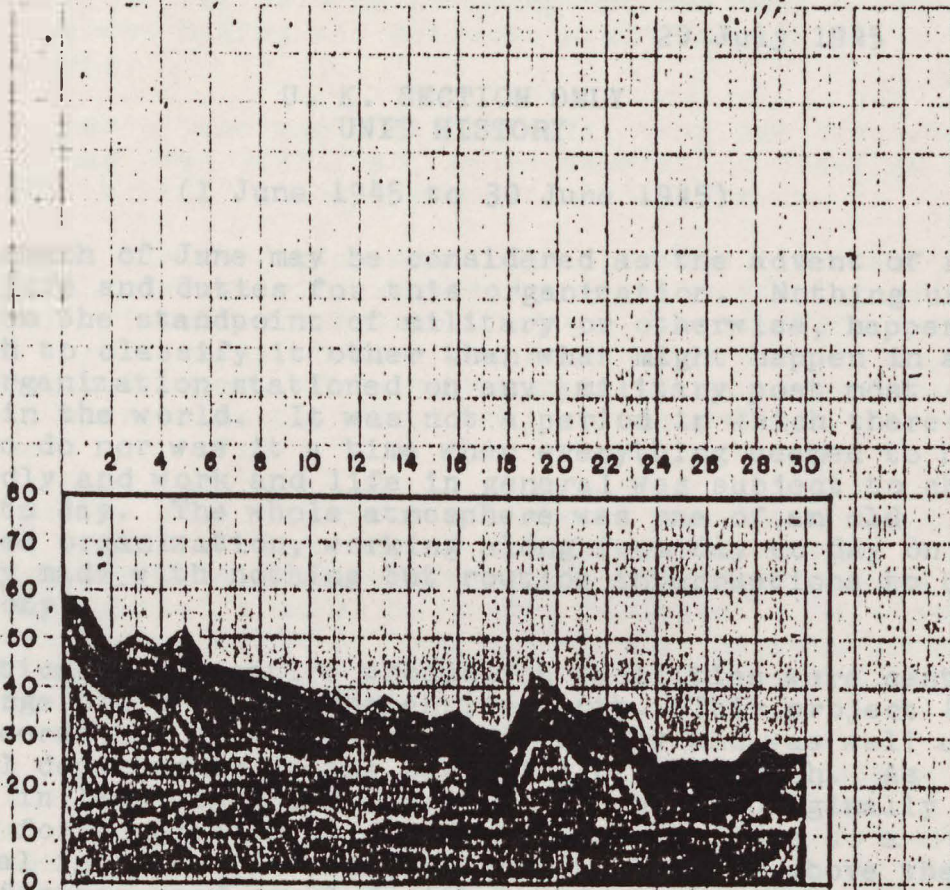
The leading rumor had most of the boys muttering German

UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

expressions to themselves as they awaited the day that the battalion's redeployment orders would come through from higher headquarters. Where would our next home be? Only time and fate would answer that one.



# FLOW CHART FOR MONTH OF MAY



- TOTAL JOBS IN BATTALION
- JOBS IN REPRODUCTION
- JOBS IN DRAFTING



HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

20 July 1945

U. K. SECTION ONLY  
UNIT HISTORY

(1 June 1945 to 30 June 1945)

The month of June may be considered as the advent of routine garrison life and duties for this organization. Nothing unusual, either from the standpoint of military or otherwise, happened this month to classify it other than what might happen in any similar organization stationed on any military post most anywhere in the world. It was not a period in which there was nothing to do nor was it a time when everything seemed to happen unexpectedly and work and life in general was subject to change from day to day. The whole atmosphere was one of an old experienced organization, working along from day to day on plans previously made with nothing but routine interruptions to break the monotony.

Practically the entire production facilities were centered on one large order during the entire month. This project (the 8th AF Record) had been initiated during May and was well under way in all departments at the beginning of the month. As mentioned in last month's history, this job was originally scheduled for completion by July 1st. However, due to a substantial increase in volume of work to be done above the original figures, and coupled with the fact that the original material was not supplied by the 8th AF as schedule, has postponed the finished delivery date indefinitely. At the end of the month, no material had been received for chapter five of the book as now set up.

As mentioned in last month's history, the 8th AF Record material involved a large amount of skilled drafting. The officers and men in the drafting section realized the magnitude and potentialities of the work involved and set themselves to the task with a determination to do the job quickly and at the same time to turn out something that others as well as ourselves would be proud to point to as an example of our draftsmanship and reproduction capabilities. An example of the type of drafting required was the representation of squadrons, groups and even wing planes engaged in fighter and bomber maneuvers and tactics on some given target. To show this with any degree of clarity required minute and detailed perspective drawings in as many as five colors. Of course, this had to be lithographed in color and required very exacting registration problems at times. To accomplish these drawings properly, another piece of non-authorized equipment played an important part; namely, the air brush. In the hands of a skilled artist, of which this

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

organization is fortunate in having several, the blending and shading of colors can be done to bring out the best color contrast, thereby making the subjects stand out against background, etc.

At the end of the month all material that had been received from 8th AF had been redrafted, color separation drawings made, and were put in hand in the reproduction department.

Since the finished copy was to be presented in the form of a bound book this necessarily required that all printing be "backed up", that is printed on both sides of the paper. This naturally called for a good grade of book stock of paper such as double coated enameled paper. This paper appeared to be procurable from supply sources on the continent, so the job was started with that in mind.

Perhaps the most important job wholly completed during the month was a series of four maps for Office of Strategic Services, titled "Political Divisions of Germany". Six colors were used and each represented a major political division. The secondary sub-divisions were indicated by a distinctive pattern prepared by the use of various types of zipatone. Five thousand copies of each of the four maps were delivered.

Total production figures are the lowest in the history of the Battalion. This is due primarily to the major portion of all men and facilities being employed on the large 8th AF Record which was not completed during the period, consequently not being included in following statistics for the month. Jobs completed, 71; Negatives, 710; Contact Prints, 812; Plates made, 262; Impressions, 183,495; Copies delivered, 159,062; Photostat Negatives, 383; Photostat Positives, 11,825; Plates grained, 481; and 31 projection prints. See Annex #1 for flow chart for month.

The supply situation for the period was normal and routine except for a few items which had to be obtained from the continent. The requirements submitted were kept to a minimum in anticipation of a move to the Continent. One major item of special interest was the procurement of 30 cases of double coated enamel paper stock from the continent for printing the 8th AF Record. This procurement required special approval by G-2 8th AF and necessitated sending two planes to Luxembourg to transport the paper required. A motorized grainer van complete, another item of equipment that was long been sought, was procured through Chief of Supply ETO, from a warehouse near Paris and was driven here from Paris under the supervision of Lt. Stephen W. Gibson. A delay of almost a week was experienced at the port awaiting water transportation, but otherwise the trip was reported without incident. This piece of equipment will supplant the substitute British items and will prove much more efficient.

## UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

The boys that take charge of the personnel records were kept hopping around during the month as things were really "cookin" in the transfer department. H & S Company led the way by losing one officer, gaining two others, and picking up five "stranded" 85-point men from Company "B". The one to leave us was 1st Lt. Donald E. Greene, the Battalion Adjutant, who had been ill and was transferred to a Detachment of Patients to await shipment back to the U.S. To take his place, 1st Lt. William H. Lyon, the hard-working and well-liked "Jack-of-All-Trades", was brought up from H & S Company's Orderly Room. This move has proven exceedingly popular with everybody concerned. The two officers who joined our ranks were Captain Ray Johnson, who had been on DS with Company "B" on the continent, and 1st Lt. Richard Kauffman, a reproduction officer that the Wing sent to the 942nd from the 8th Photo Tech Squadron. Captain Johnson came to the UK with S/Sgt Emil Dahling, Tec 4 Paul Clark, Tec 4 Joseph Farkas, Tec 4 Frank Moraski and Pfc Cecil MacDonald to return to the Z of I under the 85-point rule, but their orders were revoked and they were assigned to H & S Company to await further orders. Pfc Charley Lakey also came over with this contingent and was assigned to Company "A". Another 85-pointer, Pfc George Stash of H & S, was transferred to Hq Squadron of the Wing and immediately was sent back to the Battalion on DS.

Company "A" balanced the scales as far as personnel changes were concerned. It lost Tec 5 John J. Bozicevich and Pfc Reino P. Saari to a Detachment of Patients and thence to the Z of I, but picked up Pvt Arthur J. Boreali, a duty soldier, from Hq Squadron of the Wing, and T/Sgt Walter M. Young, who was transferred from Company "B" to take the place of F/Sgt John Compton, another 85-point man slated for a transfer.

Lt. Col. Edward Gallagher, the battalion commander, received the only "point" decoration during the month when he was awarded his fifth bronze battle star from Hq Squadron of the Wing due to his being Wing Engineer on the Staff. As for the remainder of the outfit, it was still out of luck although members of Hq Squadron, our "next door neighbors" for the past 16 months, had five to their credit. However, quite a few of the GI's and all the officers were honored by receiving certificates of merit and letters of Commendation from Wing Headquarters.

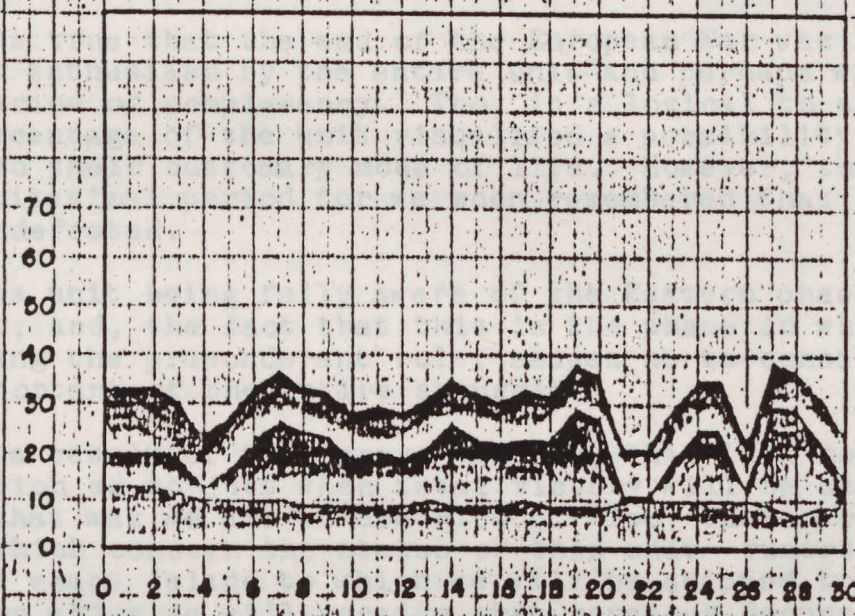
In the athletic field things were exactly the same as in May with several members of the battalion performing for the Wing baseball team and quite a few of the lads competing in golf and tennis. Naturally, the pubs in High Wycombe, the surrounding countryside, and London and the local dances drew their share of attention from the Engineers. Only one of the 942nd gang joined the ranks of the benedicts when T/5 Jack Duncan of Company "A" married ATS Private Ellen Beardwell of 139 Lancelot Road, Downham, but four or five more "knots" were due to be tied in July.

UNIT HISTORY (Cont'd)

As will always be the case in the army, the rumors as to the battalion's disposition flew thick and fast but it was officially learned that the 942nd had been placed in Category I. which meant part of the Occupational Air Force. But quite a few personnel changes were visioned before Germany was reached so it was still "sweat it out" for a lot of the "gang".

In conclusion, the morale of the battalion was on a par with the preceding month -- not as high as it could be but a safe level nevertheless. We were still at work on the 8th Air Force book and that naturally kept our minds and bodies occupied.

# JOB & DISTRIBUTION JUNE 1945



■ TOTAL JOBS IN BN  
■ JOBS IN DRAFTING  
■ JOBS IN REPRODUCTION

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
AAF STATION 101

22 August 1945

U. K. SECTION ONLY  
UNIT HISTORY

(1 July 1945 to 31 July 1945)

From an operational standpoint and in comparison with past achievement, the month of July may be regarded as banal and uninteresting, for, excluding routine domestic jobs coupled with the increase administrative work resulting from the anomalies of redeployment; the German capitulation saw the end of our mission.

It's true that the end of the European War was met with jubilant enthusiasm by the entire unit and perhaps we realized a short period of complacency. Too, it's logical to assume that a fair percentage of the unit visualized a possibility of an early return to their customary mode of life. However, this was merely an infinitesimal period for we soon remembered that Japan was still undefeated.

This unit being fully aware of the Eastern phase of work conflict, and, the fact that this is the phase in which the U.S. is playing the preponderant role, causes us to consider it the most important of the entire struggle.

As a result of this grave concern, this is a month of wide speculation as to just when total victory will be accomplished and in what way we are to contribute. Too, there are innumerable rumors which concern the status of this unit--rumors which vary from the exact island to which we will be shipped to the exact date upon which we will receive that coveted document which enables one to reap the joys of complete freedom. However, upon appraisal of this conglomeration of supposedly authentic statements, they are found to be of such conflicting nature that they accomplish absolute confusion.

Though we are designated as occupational troops, we, as individuals, are subject to immediate transfer to organizations which are slated for further duty in the Pacific. This in conjunction with the popular belief that battle stars are detrimental to our type of unit in the sense that they are not evaluated on a fair and equitable basis, adds to our present mental discomfort.

During the month of July there was an appreciable decrease in the volume of work. No new major jobs were accepted because of a pending move by this unit. Of the remaining jobs in the battalion, the Eights Air Force Book was by far the largest. Two other large jobs were completed during July. The book "Rocket

Racket" involved 163,000 impressions in four colors and was turned out for Major Miller, Director of training, Eights Air Force. The other was a set of four maps in six colors for OSS showing political divisions of Southwest and Central Germany and required 192,000 impressions. The first chapter of the Eighth Air Force Book required a tremendous amount of process work. The succeeding chapters were much simpler.

In terms of figures, the battalion recorded 687,517 impressions for a total of 336,800 copies. The camera department made 685 negatives and 239 positives from which 237 plates were made. Photostat work was brisk at the first of the month, falling off thereafter. The major portion of the photostat work was for OAS, making copies of track charts. In all, 6,900 positives and 386 negatives were put out by the photostat crew.

This month's survey shows that we have sent out to various organizations numerous men, some of whom are on detached service, while others are definite transfer, and, as no one relishes the idea of leaving an organization of which he has become an invaluable part, we have all more or less reached the point of giving ebullient attention to even the most fantastic hyperboles especially if they lend to support our own wishes.

Company rosters changed overnight as low-point personnel essential to the Pacific war effort moved out and high point "D" classification and 39-year old men moved in. Under the redeployment set-up, the battalion had to accept these men due to its Category I classification as an OAF force.

The most noteworthy personnel change was the departure of Lt. Colonel Edward J. Gallagher for the United States to attend the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His place was taken by Captain Robert S. Stewart, who vacated his S-4 post in favor of Lt. Frederick P. Jeter. The latter's job as "A" Company Supply officer was taken by Lt. Malcolm Rose. In H & S Company, Lt. Harold Steinhoff was named as personnel, supply, mess, finance and transportation officer to fill the shoes of Lt. William H. Lyon, who had moved up to the Battalion Adjutant slot the previous month.

Another change was the removal of all 85 pointers to Hq Squadron of the Wing to await shipment home. A few of the badly-needed technical men came to go home.

Two outstanding promotions of the month came when Lt. Kenneth Lowe, CO of "A" Company, made his Captaincy and T/Sgt Bert Everett became first sergeant of H & S Company. Numerous other advances in grade were made in the other ranks.

Two marriages were consummated in July when Tec 5 Jack Meyers of the Operations Section wed Sgt Carmen Bland of the WAC, in High Wycombe and Tec 4 Abe Marckason walked to the alter with Miss Irene Lowe of Kew, Surrey. Both lads were from H & S Company and a host of their friends attended both ceremonies.

In the sports field, the situation was the same as in previous months with a few of the lads cavorting for the Wing baseball team and others competing individually in gold and tennis.

Among the many discouraging and distasteful facts there is however one event that we are looking forward to with genuine enthusiasm. This particular event is regarded as a novelty in the sense that instead of our regular unit party we are planning a Bn saturnalia for Aug 3rd. This arrangement is advantageous in the sense that it offers the combined talents of the individual unit committees. This small group of men that go to make up this amalgamated supervision are devoting unselfish efforts to the various arrangements which are necessary for a successful party. Too, because of adverse conditions they are made to realize unusual difficulties, nevertheless, as their only reward will be the satisfaction of successful management, I'm sure that the entire organization will appreciate their general and noble contributions to the extent of making this event successful enough to surpass all predecessors.

As this month of July draws to a close, and as the last phase of this world conflict rages in fury, the morale of this unit, though not par excellence, is at a safe and comfortable level. For, though we are all anxious to leave army life behind, we are all conscious of our obligation because we realize the full significance of world peace. Needless to say some of us are rather optimistic while others are inclined to the pessimistic side; nevertheless, we are all conscious of that inner feeling which tends towards betterment and which seeks what is useful and values what is worthy. Therefore, as we look forward to the wars end, we are determined to exert every possible effort to avoid the pitfalls of gloom and despair, and to abstain from those traits which help to deteriorate and dissipate noble aims.



HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 US ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(1 August to 31 August 1945)

The month of August marked another milestone in the history of the 942nd Engineers. It was in the latter part of this month that Hq & Hq & Serv Co and Company "A" received orders from the VIII Fighters Command to move from High Wycombe, England in early September, to AAF Station R-11, at Eschwege, Germany, and to become a member of the Ninth Air Force, the O.A.F. The other portion of our battalion, Company "B", at Virton, Belgium, received similar instructions, and so the three companies were to be together again for the first time in eight months.

Technically speaking, the month was taken up with finishing the Eighth Air Force Book, which was started in June, and several other minor jobs for various customers. After that, the remainder of the month was spent in packing and crating our supplies and equipment and turning our excess which wouldn't be needed on the continent. Company "B", in Belgium, did the same, and put the finishing touches on a book they reproduced for the Director of Reconnaissance, Ninth Air Force.

On the personnel side of the ledger, both H & S Company and Company "A" lost some of the "old boys", and gained some new ones. The 325th Recon Wing, our next higher headquarters, arranged a swap with several other Wing units involving men with over 45 points possessing certain MOS numbers. As was expected with the point system as it is, the 942nd Engineers started a new

phase in its existence with new blood starting to take the place of the old.

The social calendar was brought to a climax by H & S Company and Company "A" holding their final party in England. Everyone enthusiastically agreed that it was by far the best. The huge social center hall in Slough, near London, was obtained, and the committee did themselves proud in signing a crack RAF band from Uxbridge that had recently returned from a tour of the States. The personnel of both companies and the host of English guests that attended were lavish in their praise of the evenings' festivities.

From the moral standpoint, it was not very high, as was expected, but most of the men shrugged their shoulders, because by now they know fully well that the Army always "moves in a mysterious manner", and this was the same old pattern.

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634, U.S. ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(1 September 1945 to 30 September 1945)

September was a month of movement and settlement for the battalion. From England and Belgium we advanced on Eschwege via air and motor Convoy, and on 17 September the three companies comprising the battalion were together for the first time since 2 January 1945. Both Headquarters & Headquarters & Service and "A" Companies, leaving England, and "B" Company, departing from Belgium, employed advance parties, a motor convoy and a movement of the main body. The contingent in the UK moved its main body and a rear party by air.

Upon reaching Eschwege, deep in the center of Germany, the battalion readied itself to get the former Luftwaffe field in shape for a long winter's stay. The outfit was designated to run the base by the Ninth Air Force so we immediately set up a Post Exchange, installed a provost marshal, took over control of the telephone system, organized our own utilities crew to repair windows and do the million and one things that are necessary to attain comfortable living quarters and efficient administration, and opened both an Officers and Enlisted Mens' Club.

As yet, we had received no technical jobs, but we were ready for any customers as our fleet of reproduction vans were ready to commence operations.

The final two weeks of the month had the personnel section burning the midnight oil as we received orders from the Ninth Air

Force to start transferring our 80 and 70 point EM to Category IV units preparing to ship to the States. No shipments were listed for September, but the first two weeks of October were due to be the "dream period" for over half of the 942nd personnel.

Moral jumped upward during the month. Once they were settled in their comfortable quarters and with an excellent EM Club and movie theatre to attend nightly, the men took a new hold on things and sat backed to "sweat it out" until their time to go home rolled around. And everyone hoped that it would be soon.

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634, U.S. ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(1 October 1945 to 31 October 1945)

October can best be described as the beginning of the end for the 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion. For it was during the early part of this month that we received work from the Ninth Air Force to disband the unit and turn in all our equipment.

During the first two weeks of the month, unit transferred out its 80 and 70 point men, and, during the final seven days, about one third of the 60 pointers headed for outfits slated to go home. The remained, those with 59 points or below and a few six month volunteers, were all transferred to Category T units. Most of the reproduction and headquarters personnel went to the 902nd Engineer AF headquarters Company at Schlangenbad, Germany while most of the draftsmen and photomappers were sent to the 13th Photo Technical Unit which had the mission of completing the "Casey Jones Project".

The final week of the month saw the battalion composed of 60-odd "60 pointers" and a holding party of 33 enlisted men who were placed on temporary duty with the 942nd from the 902nd to turn in the equipment and supplies and clean up all the necessary administrative details peculiar to disbandment. Seven of our officers, all having more than 75 points, headed home this month, leaving us with eight officers still in the battalion. Seven of these were slated to go to other organizations in Germany, but

our commanding officer, major William S. Shira, will head for home as soon as the battalion is completely disbanded. This was expected to take place sometime next month.

As is the case with most of the occupational units, social activities steadied down to the hum-drum routine of movies, the EM Club and an occasional USO troupe. Athletics were also played on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons with softball and horseshoe pitching taking the favored role.

The morale during this period can best be described as "so-so". Those who were sent to units going home were naturally in high spirits whereas those left behind were sorry to see the 942nd discarded as it meant a new way of living for them and an end to the friendships and good-fellowship that had been built up during the past two years.

HEADQUARTERS  
942ND ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC BATTALION  
APO 634 U S ARMY

UNIT HISTORY

(1 November 1945 to 20 November 1945)

The 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion became officially inactivated as of 20 November 1945, per letter, Hsq Ninth Air Force, dated 14 Nov 45, subject: Organization Order (No. 104). The actual orders were received about the 24th of November, and at that time about half the holding force was on temporary duty to Belgium to finish the turning in of all equipment. Most of the work of returning equipment to depots had been done prior to this time, and so what remained was finally and quickly disposed of and the unit closed out.

The unit was inspected prior to closing its records, and everything was found in good order. The files were sorted and all materials to be saved were boxed and made ready to ship to the inactive records depot.

Major Shira, the Battalion commander, received orders assigning him to the 397th Bomb Group, Perone, France. It was expected that he would be returned to the Zone of Interior in the very near future. All remaining officers were assigned to the IX Engineer Command and would depart with the remainder of the holding party.

The enlisted men who had 60 - 64 points were transferred to a Category IV unit early in the month for shipment to the United States, and so by inactivation date all work had been accomplished and the 942nd Engineers became part of the records of the history of World War II.

## HISTORY OF COMPANY B APRIL 1945

The events of the past month on the Western Front have been of such a magnitude, bringing always with each news report more gains and more towns taken, that the history of this unit for the month becomes very minute and inconspicuous in retrospect. Nevertheless, this organization, settling into one more or less humdrum existence of every day routine work and left behind in the back-wash of the front, has produced much needed work for the armies and the Air Force. The men can look back over the month with considerable satisfaction of a job well done under many difficulties. That the work that is produced for the various agencies is being appreciated by them and being put to use is proven by the commendations, both official and unofficial that have been received. Finally, the steady flow of work is a sign that we are needed here and that the original query as to the worth of the change of station has largely disappeared. All personnel have settled down to the job at hand and although many petty troubles are magnified, the morale of the men is generally quite high.

On the first of April, this company reached the first anniversary of its activation. Since the day in 1944, a new group of men have been worked into a fine technical organization, two changes of station have been made, and a great amount of operational work has been produced. The reputation that this group has made in the prompt and efficient handling of all jobs has added a great deal to the Esprit de Corps and the morale in general.



The men at AAF Station 400 have been most fortunate during the month in having a majority of the days most lovely and sunny. The early spring that had arrived in March had at times seemed to give way to an early summer. However none had planned on the changeability of this country and as on the last few days of the month the spring changed to winter and the climatic conditions ran a full gamut from wind and rain to sleet and snow. By the 30th the Building had become so cold that it was necessary to get the fires going once again-not a happy augury for the month to come.

With the very fine days, however, of most of the month, the men were able to get out more into the surrounding country side, to see the beginning of the baseball season, and last but not least, to develop all the symptoms of spring sickness. Notwithstanding, a formidable amount of work was produced and delivered. Days off are still of the future, however with almost every section working the three shift day, sufficient time is given all to be able to enjoy this season of the year.

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The operational activity of the past month has, like the preceding month, become rather patternized. The ever present problem of keeping up with the rapidly advancing armies and hoping that a job will be delivered before it is too late, has given the Opa Sito and air of great activity. In the months previous, some of the sections had continued to work at a high tempo while others had little to do; with the advent of many specialized jobs calling for close cooperation between all

sections, more trouble with the duty roster has been experienced and provided ever a source of friction between the technical and the administrative sections.

No new customers have been added during the month although a great deal more work has been received from the First French Army through the 6th Army Group and the 7th Army. The Mosaic Section finally came into its own toward the end of the month with the arrival of a large job, however the records show that almost half of the jobs turned out during that period have been mosaics. Those include the ever present town plan mosaics for the various Army PID's and a few other specialized lay downs. These will be more fully discussed in the Operational Summary.

With the receipt of so much work for the mosaic section, the Photo Print Section has become completely detached from the Reproduction Platoon, and a number of men from other sections have been placed on TD and trained in the operation of the photostat machine and the printers. Lt. Hursey has become the section head and a complete altering of the area has been made. The amount of photostat work that has been accomplished, not only for the Photo Library but also for the PI Section has been great. Many of the orders have been accomplished with very close deadlines and are always met, notwithstanding that a drier has had to be used that is borrowed from the Air Corps. On the last day of the month a large drier was set up and about ready to go into operation. This will aid greatly in the proper fulfilling of future orders. The Photo Print Section, as established, works in direct contact with the Mosaic Section, and in operating this

way, a great deal of needless red tape and paperwork is eliminated.

As in the past month, the Photo-Library remains the one section that is not operating to capacity. A skeleton shift is maintained after 1700 hours and this shift is mainly for the purpose of issuing plots and maps. The fact that the 19th PID has virtually stopped all work other than the functions of cover, search and to some extent, tracing, has left the library isolated. The main interest of the men in this Section at the present time seems to be in the baseball team.

The greatest single problem still faced by the various sections has been the drain of men caused by the every day details plus an increasing number of other special jobs that must be accomplished. Previously, as few men as possible had been excused from duty but by the last of the month it was necessary to make a large list of those not available for it had reached the stage where presses and plate making equipment was lying idle for lack of personnel. Needless to say, this has placed a rather large burden upon the Library and the Transportation Section, however it is hoped that this will only last for a short time.

By the close of the month the three major sections of the company were working at top speed under the stress of close deadlines and the ever rapid movement of the front line. It was becoming increasingly hard to maintain contact with the various Army Photo Centers and most job orders were being received and process through S-3 after receipt of orders by phone or by teletype. Many of the deliveries have necessitated special

couriers into Germany and some of the men have had the opportunity to go along with the truck. The airstrip continues to be used quite frequently, although due to the change in character of the operational work, not as frequently as during the preceding month.

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A number of changes have been made in the personnel and in the T/O during the month. On the last day of the previous month, too late to include in the March history,

was reduced to the grade of private. On the same order, was reduced to Private. These reductions were contained in SO #21, 325th Reproduction and Interpretation Center, paragraphs 6 and 7, dated 30 March.

On the 18th, Sgt John R. Hunt, 11048774, was placed on TDY with this unit for a period of thirty days per paragraph 7, SO #25, 325th Reproduction and Interpretation Center. He was detached from Hq Squadron, VIII Fighter Command. It is interesting to note that this man resumed acquaintance with many old friends for he was on detached service with the 952nd Engr Topo Company about two years ago.

T/3 Humberto Marroquin, 16098363, left on the 26th for Infantry OCS. He was transferred in grade to the 9th Reinforcement Depot per paragraph 3, SO #80, Hq VIII Fighter Command dated 13 April. He is the first member of this company to leave for OCS and all the men will follow his progress with the utmost interest and well wishes.

On the 29th, [redacted] was transferred to Hq and Service Company within the Battalion. He was replaced on the same date by Sgt Lester Wahlgren, 36347918. The authority for both changes is contained in SO #100, par. 3, 325th Photo Wig, Reconnaissance.

The only promotion during the month was Lt. Hursey to 1st Lieutenant. The order was received on the 19th, effective the 16th. Paragraph 6, SO #106, Hqs VIII Air Force.

By the end of the month the strength was 9 officers and 250 men with 3 officers and 1 man attached.

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A further loosening up of the number of men allowed to go on furloughs and three day passes has been evidenced during the month. Men are being sent to England and to the Riviera (although word has been received that due to transport difficulties the leave to England have been temporarily suspended). Also passes have been made available to Brussels or Paris and generally there are about six or eight men a week able to take advantage of this. All those who have been fortunate enough to get away for a few days return with glowing reports of their experiences, much to the chagrin and the jealousy of all the less fortunate.

On the 23rd, the day trips to Arlon were cancelled and instead a trip to Luxembourg substituted. This is most agreeable to the men and as the quota remains the same, most of the men will have the chance to see what the town is like. The stories brought back by those who have already gone make the town sound very interesting and enjoyable.

New B passes were made available on the 15th allowing the men to be off the post until curfew (2300 hours). At the same time the very low quota that had remained in effect since the days of the 3rd Army Administration was removed and no limit was placed on the number who could be off at any one time. This has been welcomed by the men and many more men are taking advantage of this lifting of the restrictions and getting away from the post more often. Coupled with this has been a further change in the uniform regulations so that now the Class B uniform with leggings or boots is the standard uniform for the pass except when visiting outside the city limits and then it becomes Class A or else (in the combat zone) Class B with arms and helmet. With the weather that has been prevalent this uniform has been well received by the men and all are in favor of it.

As a result of this chance to get out more, the relations with the civilian population seems to be improving rapidly. Many of the men are obtaining a working knowledge of French and at the same time many of the girls are getting a smattering of English.

One of the greatest factors in this "ice breaking" was the holding of the anniversary party and dance on the 7th. This was a most gala evening and all agree that it was one of the best parties that the company has ever had. Due to the fact that there was no place on the post to hold it, a large dance floor-cafe was hired and admirably decorated by a committee headed by Cpl Shrenkor. Much of the work was done by T/4 Robinson and Pvt Abrew. The music was furnished by the Company trio and they did a fine job as usual. About one hundred invitations were sent out

to girls in the town and almost without a single exception were they accepted. One factor that had not been planned on was the Belgian chaperone system and it was soon discovered that by inviting a girl it could be expected that from two to five others would also come- the girls parents and perhaps aunts, uncles, and all her younger brothers and sisters. Under this system the floor soon became over crowded and dancing was difficult at the best. Nevertheless, it was a success, even down to the Master of Ceremonies, T/5 Bordeleau and his French, and to the entertainment that featured hill-billy music. Many pictures were taken of the party however it is impossible to include them in this month's history due to the fact that operational work has precluded any chance of getting them printed up. It is hoped that they will be available the following month.

On the 12th of the month, the Post Commander received a request from the local gendarmes to furnish sixteen men to act as funeral guards and firing squad for a funeral to be held in St. Mard for four members of the partisan group who had been executed by the Germans about ten months before. As the acting Post Commander at the time was Major Shira, the men were all chosen from this Company, and led by Lt. Rogowsky, they were trained the day before and made a very creditable showing, complete with Class A uniforms with all buttons shining brightly, with helmets and leggins. The ceremony was rather long and complex however no real mistakes were made and the men feel that they had made as good an impression on the people as could be hoped for. Due to the fact that the four men had been very prominent in the

partisan affairs, they have become heroes to the local people and as a result the entire town was present for the lengthy affair. Live ammunition had to be used, however there were no incidents during the firing of the volleys.

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The state of any form of military training remains completely dormant much to the relief of all the men. It might be said that although very little time has been spent on any drill, the showing of the men at the funeral proved that with but very little effort the snap and precision that characterizes the engineers is easily attainable.

The weapons and gas masks continue to be inspected each week by the platoon leaders however that is as far as any sort of regimentation goes. In the early part of the month all men were required to take a six hour course in interior guard that culminated in a written exam. Part of this period was devoted to demonstrations and practical instruction, while the remainder was a thorough going over of the manual on Interior Guard. Generally speaking, the men felt that it was a waste of time, for only a few weeks previously had the same thing been done.

Nothing further has been done about the plans for the defense of this station. Due to the fact that there has been so much operational work, it has not been considered feasible to arrange any further practices or mock attacks. Generally, the area has been most quiet and no alerts have been made during the month, although by a fluke, two escaped German prisoners were recaptured on the night of the 26th. Showing that great care must still be exercised in the guarding of this post.



The number of men required to guard this post remains great however a decided slackness has set in that was not apparent while the front was so very close. The optimism that is prevalent has an effect upon the men although the great precautions in the guarding of the Operational Site are still in effect.

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And so the month of April comes to an end. This company has been at its present station for about one hundred days and since those first days a great deal has been accomplished. The mission is being fulfilled and the men are able to see the visible results of their efforts by closely following the news from day to day. That the work being produced is being used is self evident. The great questions in all minds at the end of the month is "How much longer now?"

Finally, the morale of the men has taken a decided change for the better during this month and a great part of the rise can be attributed to the fact that the men are very busy and are able to see their results. There are less forms and records to be produced now and all efforts can be turned toward the operational work. The party aided a great deal in getting the men out of the rut and into other than the army society and although the mail situation has been very poor during most of the month, even this has not seriously affected the men. Above all, it is the consensus of opinion that the very high quality and the rapidity of execution of the work is a sure sign of the ability and the will to work and to work well.

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## SUMMARY OF THE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

The technique developed during the preceding month has become further standardized and symplified in the light of future operations, however due to the fact that so much movement of the armies has been prevalent during the month has had an effect upon the number of litho reproduction jobs that have been produced. There is less time for large scale planning for future operations and more need for speedy production of small town plans and studies of a like nature. The lessons learned the previous month have been put to good use and the quality of the reproduction work is greatly improved. It is most interesting to note that the First U.S. Army is most pleased with this new method, as is the Seventh Army. Thus, the majority of jobs produced during the month have been for these two armies.

A closer cooperation has been developed between the drafting and the reproduction platoons and there is less of a one-sidedness in the production now than there had been formerly. The number of jobs received and processed during the month is quite low-28, however of these jobs, twelve are for mosaics, twelve are for maps and four others of a more miscellaneous nature. The last of the Jap Electric Power maps were printed up and delivered during the month as was the 1:6 million Far East maps. These two jobs have been worked on since the early part of February and it was with a sigh of relief that they were finally completed. Since then, a further large scale mapping job has been received from SHAEF/AIR for a 1:250,000 series of Railroad Maps of Germany. This also promises to be a rather long and

tedious affair however the actual execution should prove most interesting. Also under the same class with any large scale mapping project was the request from Lt. Col. Curtin,. Flak Officer of the IX Air Force for a further tier of flak maps to extend to the east of Berlin. This addition was soon completed and the overlays arrived and prepared. The entire job required only three days to complete. The flak series has now reached great proportions. However many of the sheets can now be discarded and it is soon hoped that all of them will be finished.

As has been previously stated, the mosaic section finally came into its own during the month and this group has been very busy for most of the time. Many job orders were received from the First or the Seventh Armies for a mosaic of a specified town, to be printed and delivered in 24 hours. With only one exception was this met and that was due to the fact that no cover was available. All told, about 100 separate towns were produced for the armies, many of them of towns in the Ruhr packet. Further specialized mosaics were received, one of a dam that was to be bombed. On the 17th, Major Shira was informed by S-3 that Sorties were being flown of an area from Munchen to Passau covering about the 15,000 square miles. This would be laid as a mosaic and done as rapidly as possible. The actual time set for the job was ten days, however due to the fact that the scale of the job is 1:20,000 and the photos are 1:10,000 to 1:15,000, the number of prints required is tremendous. Nevertheless, by the end of the first week of work 4952 square miles had been laid and this covered a total of 121 boards. Deliveries are made each day

and the rate of production is about 15 sheets a day. With this large order on hand, the total number of square miles laid during the month reaches 5500, a quite large area.

During the month a number of specialized jobs have been received from the First French Army. These include five separate maps of road studies of the regions in southern Germany and Bavaria prepared by the French and reproduced by this unit. Many of the maps were in four and five colors and required a great deal of careful work in registering. Also received from this same army at the end of the month were two other specialized drafting reproduction jobs, one consisting of three high oblique maps of the Bavarian Alps, to be reproduced in half-tone with colored overprints for the roads and the water. It was necessary to prepared color separation drawings and many of the men who had worked on perspective target charts in the past were called upon to once more draw roads and rivers in perspective. It is expected that many more requests will be made by this group for the unit has demonstrated that its capabilities are very great.

During the month the reproduction section made 440,040 impressions and 232,225 copies, a rather fair number considering the small number of jobs that have been received. No doubt this figure will continue to rise during the next month and top the preceding figures for there are many large jobs that will soon be ready for the presses however they cannot be figured in the estimates as yet.

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Considering that the trouble is still existent in the procuring of enough men to adequately carry on the operational work, the month has seen a large amount of necessary jobs produced and delivered. The number of jobs that have been cancelled during the month amounts to just one and all others were received in time to prove of use. The knowledge that this work is being used is a powerful incentive to the men and the sense of team work and efficiency is greatly improved.

During the month the mosaic section has been the most completely employed and this in turn has caused the Photo Print sections to develop another shift after mid night. That the various sections are able to work together so well is an indication that the personnel are well chosen for the task of producing much in little time.

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## PROBLEMS OF SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE

During the month a sizeable amount of work was done around the various buildings and now that this organization seem to be here to stay many more semi-permanent pieces of equipment have been moved in. Chief of these and no doubt the largest single job done by the Utility Section of the post has been the construction of a house for the Diesel generator. The plans for this structure were drawn up by Pfc Acteson and as they were intended to be more or less pre-fabricated, the actual construction was done in a hurry. By the end of the month, the job was finished and the generator ready to start to work. Much credit must be given to the carpenters and the others who were in any way responsible for the rapid completion of the job.

With the possibility of having a constant source of electricity in the near future, a more permanent form of wiring of the various sections was accomplished and the result is that there is less chance of getting hung on a low hanging wire.

Sgt Lievens and Sgt Santoro succeeded in construction a very presentable transparency holder to be used with the copy camera in the trailer and at the same time built a vacuum frame of the camera room. Both of these pieces of equipment are in great use with the new procedure for the production of half-tones.

On the 29th a large drier, sufficient to take the largest prints and photostats was installed in the Photo Print section. This will provide a real saving in time for the men of the section for heretofore all drying of large prints had to be done in the Air Corps Lab, a makeshift expedient at the best.

The small rotary drier has been moved to the small camera van that is now being used by the Camera Club and this too provides a real benefit to all the amateurs in the Company.

During the month more German paper was received and a great deal of it has been put to good use. Much of the stock is admirable for cards and record forms and the result has been to save much bristol board.

Very few failures of equipment have been experienced during the month and that stands as a great credit to the maintenance men whose job it is to keep the presses etc in good working order. Only one stoppage occurred during the month when an arm on one of the presses broke. This was taken to a welder in town and soon repaired and the press working once again. When one stops to consider that the presses are running 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, it is realized that excellent care is taken of them and that they are able to withstand a great deal of strain.

\* \* \* \* \*

Due to the fact that the 26th Station Complement moved to new quarters it was possible to make a shift in personnel and alleviate to a great extent the cramped conditions that had existed from the first day. The large squadroom directly over the mess hall and corresponding to the NCO room (complete with spring beds and good mattresses) was moved into on the 16th. The company now fills all of Building #5 and two floors of Building #4. The men who were fortunate enough to move into this new room are quite contented with the change and are making the most of the opportunity.

\* \* \* \* \*

## TRIPS AND VISITORS

The month of April has been almost devoid of any trips of any importance. Very few officers from other units have visited and very few visits have been made by the company officers.

Early in the month Lt. George went to Paris to visit OCE and discuss mapping problems with them. On the 14th Major Shira made a trip to the 3rd Army Headquarters and to the 652nd Engr Battalion who had moved from France to Germany. He returned with many tales of his experiences in Germany and some pictures of the destruction that had been wrought to the cities of Saar and Rhineland.

Major Bernier from SHAEF/AIF made two visits during the month to discuss both the Railroad Maps and the innumerable gridded maps that are being produced for SHAEF. He is always a welcome figure.

Due to the fact that the company is producing so much work for the First French Army, Lt. Bouchaud has become a constant visitor dropping in at all times of the day and night (even 3 AM). He has become much interested in the possibilities of producing analoglyphs and experiments that have been made for him show that it is perfectly feasible and simple. Whether any large program will be developed remains to be seen.



## ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION

The post Special Service Section has finally completed all the many improvements that have been contemplated and continue to be most active in providing for the many wishes of the men. "Archies Tavern" and the day room continue to be most actively patronized and as would be expected, the PX is very popular for every one. The stock that is available has become quite large and the management of this phase of the section is most efficient.

Due to the fact that so much pressure has been placed on the men due to the operational requirements, many of the proposals made during the previous month concerning the post camera room, the educational program and other morale boosters, have had to be temporarily shelved, however it is hoped that these ideas will be put into action in the near future.

A number of radios were received during the month and one was installed in the mess hall and gives out with the AFN program day and night. This is of the utmost importance for it has given the men the chance to hear daily news broadcasts and keep in touch with the latest developments. The other radios have been spread around the post for the enjoyment of all.

Due to the fact that the supply point that previously had issued the film for the movies had moved into Germany, it was not considered worth while to make the very long trip there to get film and as a consequence the quality of the shows has been rather low during the month. A few of first class caliber have been shown, but by and large, most of them have been B pictures

or else repeats of other pictures that have been shown. Some of the better pictures have been, "Laura" with Gene Tierny, "Bring on the Girls" with Veronica Lake, Carmen Miranda in "Greenwich Village" and finally, "Hello Beautiful". There have been many days when no films had been available and so more activity has been evidenced on the baseball field and in the town itself by men on pass. It is hoped that the movie situation will become cleared up in time, however for the present the men must remain patient.

\* \* \* \* \*

During the month the Chaplain made a trip to England and while there he was able to procure a small field organ to use for his Sunday services. Heretofore he had lead all the singing by giving the pitch and he admitted that this was not satisfactory as he is almost tonedeaf. With an organ he got busy and scoured the post and finally discovered a man in the company who could play the organ and now the Sunday Chapel service is complete with music. The organist, a member of this company, is T/4 Andrews, who had played a large church organ in civilian life. Another engineer had designed a program with the order of service for the chaplain and this has proved of benefit. T/4 Cook turned out one of his very excellent jobs for the cover and it was printed up by the reproduction section.

The Roman Catholic men are still served by either a Belgian priest from Virton, by a visiting chaplain from Montmody, by attending mass at a nearby Carmelite Convent, or else by making a trip to Orval, a very famous monastery about twenty miles away.

All those who have been there say that it is most beautiful and strongly advise all to make a visit there.

\* \* \* \* \*

The baseball season has gotten well underway during the month and two or three games a week have been played on the new field. This has been developed by the German prisoners and now looks very professional. The in-field has been "skinned" while the outfield has been rolled and the grass cut quite short. Another field for soft ball only has been developed at the old motor pool and this is used by the many teams that comprise the intramural league. The Photo Library is doing a very good job and is one of the leaders of the league. Not only are they about tops but also four out of six of the leading batters are from this section.

The post hard ball team has played only a few games with other units in the vicinity and thus far have come out about even. A good number of the players are from this company and seem to be the mainstays of the team. Plans are being made to go on a trip, however as yet nothing definite has been developed. With the good weather and the fact that many of the games are played on Sunday afternoons, a large number of the townspeople have shown up to try and reach some understanding of the game. Thus far it has seemed most difficult, however with continued attendance at the games they are gradually getting an inkling of what it is all about.

\* \* \* \* \*

Each unit of the post has held a dance during the month at the Hetropole Cafe and each has been as successful as the company anniversary party. Plans are being made to have another for the company during the coming month and all the men are looking forward to it very eagerly. The Special Service Section, although not in control, provides a helping hand and much credit for the ultimate success must go to them.

\* \* \* \* \*

R E S T R I C T E D

SPECIAL ORDERS

HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COM

NO.....80

APO 637

AAF STATION

13 April 1945

E X T R A C T

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3. Tec 3 (CO4) Humberto Marroquin, 160983, Co B. 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn, is trfd in gr, atchd unasgd, to 9th Reinforcement Depot, APO 545, for CC Tng (Inf) class No. 25, reporting not later than 29 April 1945 to the Comdt thereof. TDN TBMAA TBAAA 60-105 P 431-02 A 212/50425. Auth: Eighth Air Force TT D-68003, dtd 4 March 1945. EDCMR: 29 April 1945.

\* \* \* \* \*

BY ORDER OF COLONEL WEBSTER:

ROBERT W. HUMPHREYS  
Colonel, AC,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ W.T. Durkop  
/t/ W.R. DURKOP,  
Lt Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

A CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT

JOHN FOWLER,  
1st Lt., CE.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
Office of the Commanding General

SPECIAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER.....106 )

16 April 1945

E X T R A C T

\* \* \* \* \*

6. The following O are DP, temp promoted to the gr indicated in AUS w/rank fr date of this order. (Auth Cir 90, Hq European TO USA, 17 August 1944):

2nd Lt to 1st Lt

WILBURN R, HURSEY 01116603 CE

\* \* \* \* \*

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL DOOLITTLE:

JOHN S. ALLARD  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Lindsey L. Braxton  
/t/ LINDSEY L. BRAXTON  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

JOHN FOWLER,  
1st Lt., CE.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

HEADQUARTERS - OFFICE

5 April 1945.

General DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY  
Commander of the First French Army  
to

Colonel TRIMBLE  
325th Reproduction and Interpretation  
Center  
APO 634, U.S. Army.

I would like to thank you for the rapidity with which your Center was good enough to execute a work-order for the profit of the First Army.

I request you to transmit, in particular, all my congratulations to Major SHIRA and to the personnel of Company B of the 942nd.

I hope that in the very near future the cooperation of our Armies and of the different Services which compose them, will lead to the total destruction of the enemy.

P.O. The General of LINARES Brigade  
Under-Chief of Headquarters

1st Ind.

201.22  
19 April 45.  
HEADQUARTERS 325TH REPRODUCTION & INTERPRETATION CENTER, APO 634,  
U.S. Army.  
TO: Major Shira & C.O. Company B, 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn. APO  
634, U.S. Army.

It is with great satisfaction that I forward to you the above communication from the First French Army.

M. E. TRIMBLE  
Lt. Col., A.C.,  
Commanding.

201.22

2nd Inc

HEADQUARTERS, Co "B", 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn, APO 634, U.S. Army.  
22 April 1945.

TO: All personnel, Co "B", 942nd Engr Avn Topo Bn, APO 634,  
U.S. Army.

It is extremely gratifying to receive the above message and to know that the personnel of this organization are materially contributing to the efforts of the armies in the field by their skill and devotion to duty.

FRANK M. MARSON  
Captain, C.E.  
Commanding.



le 4 Avril 1945

REMIERE ARMEE FRANCAISE  
MAJOR - CABINET

Le General DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY  
Commandant la 1 ere Armee Francaise

a  
Monsieur le Colonel TRIMBLE  
325 th Reproduction and Interpretation Center  
A.P.O. 634 U.S. Army.

Je tiens a vous remercier de la rapidite avec laquelle votre Centre a bien voulu executer un travail au profit de la 1 en Armee.

Je vous demande de transmettre, en particulier, toutes mes felicitations au Major SHIRA et au personnel de la Compagnie B du 942 nd.

Je souhaite que dans un tres proche avenir, la cooperation de nos Armees et des differents Services qui les composent, amene la destruction totale de l'ennemi.

P.O. Le General de Brigade de LINARES,  
Sous-Chef d'Etat-Major:

