

signal

were initiated to furnish the 2nd Military Railway with communications at Beauvais, Abencourt and Amiens. The communications officer contacted the Chief Signal Officer on 22 November to make arrangements for a 6-position switchboard for the 11th Major Port and a 100 line Kellogg board for the dock area at Rouen. Authorization was received along with depot releases for CF-2 equipment for the installation of a Paris-to-11th Port teletype.

Movement of CBS Headquarters to Lille

Telephone service was discontinued at Channel Base Section Rear at noon on 26 November, except for phones in the headquarters building. The Signal Section completed the move from Le Havre to Lille, France, on 27 November, with temporary offices at 175 Rue de Republique. On 30 November the section moved to 235 Rue de Republique, leaving the Signal and Supply division at 175 Rue de Republique. Communication facilities up to and from Headquarters Channel Base Section were as follows: 2 speech circuits to Paris Military; 5 speech circuits to 13th Port, Antwerp; and 3 lines to Lille Military. Teleprinter: one full duplex circuit to Paris; one half duplex to Antwerp; one half duplex to Le Havre. Steps were being taken to replace 303rd Signal Operations Battalion and 810th Signal Service Company personnel with temporary personnel of the 3185th Signal Service Company then in Transit Area B, District A. Enlargement of communication facilities in all ports and major installations was progressing as rapidly as possible, as

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equipment and installation personnel were made available. Efforts were made to obtain one storage and issue section for the Port of Antwerp. Personnel for this section was taken from personnel then assigned to Channel Base Section.

Arrangements were made on 1 December with Advance Section to supply personnel and equipment for Antwerp in the event of destruction of signal equipment by bombing, and arrangements were made to have radio equipment repaired at Advance Section depots. On 3 December a six-position switchboard was made available by headquarters, Com Zone, for use of the 11th Port. It was anticipated that an additional teletype machine would be installed at the 16th Port to handle the increasing volume of traffic at that station. One storage and issue section, consisting of one officer and 22 enlisted men of the 3122nd Signal Service Company (Port), was sent from Le Havre to Antwerp. Personnel of Detachment E, 3185th Signal Service Battalion, then in bivouac in Transit Area B, Le Havre, was being broken down into teams and allotted to various stations in the Channel Base Section.

Arrangements were made in all American installations to install an extension in all main railroad stations that could be plugged into private railroad cars of Generals Eisenhower, Lee, Ross, etc., giving them direct telephone communication into the military net. For those railroad stations under British control, arrangements were being made through the Signal Officer, 21st Army Group, to have these extensions installed.

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Base Section headquarters was to be completed within a week, at which time the tactical switchboard was to be removed and returned to stock. Plans were being made to complete the rehabilitation of four open wire circuits from the Rouen switchboard to CBS to provide better communications between headquarters and the Rouen and Le Havre districts. The teleprinter network for existing installations was complete. Additional circuits between Rouen and Le Havre were being installed to provide better teleprinter service between these two points. The base section radio station was left at Antwerp to provide emergency communication in the event of destruction of the port switchboard installations there. SCR-188 radio sets were obtained for installations at Le Havre, Rouen and Antwerp, and CBS headquarters, to form a port radio net. However, two of the sets were damaged by rifle fire and replacement parts were not immediately obtained.

At CBS headquarters, the following was the program for the installation of communications facilities:

- a. Installation of extensions for all sections.
- b. Relocation of extensions for all sections.
- c. Installation of parallel telephones consisting of EE-8A telephones where requested.
- d. Installation of inter-com set for general staff.
- e. Installation of base section teleprinter conferences equipment.

On 16 December telephone operators of the 3185th Signal Service Battalion were relieved from duty at the CBS switch-

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Time required 1 hour and 35 minutes. This movement was made with the view of reloading the ammunition on mechanized vehicles at the roadside hardstandings for subsequent movement to railheads. In spite of the fact that this procedure required double handling of materiel, it greatly accelerated evacuation of dump cargo this period.

Thus, Operations Memorandum No. 14, 16 December 1944, provided that the Commanding Officer of the 261st Ordnance Battalion arrange for the employment, time-keeping, payment and receipts of both local farm labor and horses and carts. Rate of pay was in accordance with existing regulations. Lt. Colonel William G. Whitehead, Omaha District Headquarters, arranged through local Town Majors in the vicinity of the Ordnance Depots for sufficient personnel and equipment to satisfy the maximum requirements of the Commanding Officer, 261st Ordnance Battalion, to accomplish this mission.

Every effort was diverted toward dump operation during December, and the period was characterized by the formation of the "Calvados Cavalry" which expedient led materially to the accomplishment of the primary mission.

10. Operation of Signal Facilities.

The period of this report saw a vast expansion in telephone communications throughout the Omaha area. This was necessary due to the movement of and increase in the number of units extended such facilities.

The assignment of Company "A", 47th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion, made it possible to provide communication for units heretofore not served in the District, while they were likewise charged with the maintenance of pole lines in the Castilly area. Switching centers were established at Mosles, Colleville and Longueville to compensate for the loss of facilities due to the anticipated departure of the Special Engineer Brigades. Maintenance of all installations was carried out, and an extensive program of rehabilitation of open wire and pole lines along route N-13 began through the police and salvage of abandoned wire. Simultaneously, the Signal Section, Omaha District, instituted a mapping project of all open wire lines to ascertain circuits available for future use.

During the month, the 3185th Signal Service Battalion worked with the 3112th Signal Service Battalion and Brigade personnel. Courier service was greatly improved this month by the procurement of new vehicles.

11. Operation of Medical Facilities.

Medical facilities under this headquarters were operated for the greater part of December by the 393rd Collecting Company, while facilities in the Granville Sub Port area were handled by the 391st Collecting Company. On 27 December 1944, these companies were assigned to the Seventh U. S. Army, and the 261st Medical Battalion assumed the duties of the 391st Collecting Company while the 95th and 533rd Quartermaster Battalion Medical Detachments took over the duties in the 6th and 5th Engineer Special Brigade areas respectively. Simultaneously, Captain Clifford B. Harwood assumed the duties of Surgeon, Omaha District, following the departure of Major Theodore P. Koszalka with the intended re-assignment to the 1st Engineer Special Brigade for duty in the Southwest Pacific.

During December, four medical sections were assigned to Omaha District and provided medical facilities for all units which did not have their own detachments. These sections and their locations follow:

253rd Medical Section - St. Lo
278th Medical Section - Le Molay
289th Medical Section - Mosles
290th Medical Section - Isigny

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ETOUSA
STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL
OUTGOING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

WFH/hf

54077

DATED FEB 071932Z '45

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FROM : Eisenhower
ACTION TO : AGWAR
REF NO : E-95817

Return to G-3 Adm

Proper control and operation of Communications Zone Repeater Station net work on the Continent dictates the urgent necessity for the constitution and activation of a Signal Service Battalion (Repeater). Present 6830 Signal Service Battalion (Prov) now in use here does not give rapid administrative and technical control necessary.

Urgent requirement exists for Repeater Battalion composed of following T/O and E 11-500 Teams, dated 22 September 1944:

Type	Name	Personnel
1 AD	Battalion Headquarters	18
2 AC	Company Headquarters	22
3 AB	Platoon Headquarters	40
5 AF	Mess Team	20
6 AK	Motor Maintenance	6
1 GO	Telephone & Telegraph Install	18
19 GN	Telephone Carrier & Repeater	399
4 GT	Wire Construction	44
9 GW	Cable Repair	36
Total		603

Compensating deletion of T/O and E 11-500 Teams of Signal Service Battalions now assigned this Theater are offered as follows:

Unit	GN	GP	GO	GL	Total Strength
3110 Sig Serv Bn	1	2	0	0	81
3113 Sig Serv Bn	13	0	0	2	43
3159 Sig Serv Bn	5	0	0	0	105
3184 Sig Serv Bn	1	2	0	0	81
3185 Sig Serv Bn	1	2	0	0	81
3188 Sig Serv Bn	0	1	0	0	81
3189 Sig Serv Bn	1	2	0	0	81

IN
3 FEB. 1945

G-3
HQ ETCUSA

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