

HISTORY

1029th SIGNAL COMPANY



15 February 1941 – 15 April 1945

**Eighth Air Force
1029th Signal Company
AAF STA 367, APO 557
U.S. Army**

(April 15, 1945)

To everything there must come an end. With the long-expected reorganization of the 97th becoming an actual fact, the 1029th Signal Company was disbanded PAC Paragraph 7, Section 2, General Orders Number 52, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, dated April 15, 1945. All members of the organization were transferred into the Air Corps, and into one of the three squadrons that comprise the new 446th Air Service Group. The breakdown is as follows:

446th HQ and Base SV SQ. Air SV Group

RANK	MOS	NAME	ASN
S/SGT	405	Signorelli, Nicholas C.	33304442
SGT	060	Strobeck, Claude M.	32262190
T/SGT	766	Biela, John W.	31048294
S/SGT	805	Benner, John D.	36120522
TEC/3	805	Sparkman, Elmer J.	19074979
TEC/4	805	Burke, John K.	20149694
TEC/5	237	Montemayor, Arthur J.	38250456
CPL	950	Milne, John J.	39311282
TEC/5	667	Smoot, Walter T.	15115558
PFC	345	Browning, William H.	33442500
PFC	667	Hansbrough, McDearman T.	14155930
TEC/4	766	Shimkus, William (NMI) Jr	37133198
TEC/5	776	Rose, Frank J. Jr	17044397
TEC/5	766	Murphy, James A.	13089984
PFC	835	Hvizda, George J.	33515096
CPL	933	Carson, Edward S.	13128857
PFC	776	White, John E.	38230362
TEC/5	650	Phillips, Fred J.	19138030
TEC/5	238	Johnson, Lloyd L.	19091515
TEC/4	650	Fishman, Joseph (NMI)	36607806
PFC	650	Neff, Stanley E.	35602691
PFC	590	Heiferling, Leonard (NMI)	32790585
PFC	650	Helms, Garah F.	34674385
SGT	237	Robertson, William J.	16116835
TEC/5	237	Hurtel, Gordon N.	39256762

646th Air Materiel SQ

RANK	MOS	NAME	ASN
TEC/5	014	Aitken, James F.	37186072
S/SGT	581	Seaman, Fred C.	32186952
TEC/4	647	Bloniarz, William E.	36341412
TEC/5	511	Freeman, Ollis C.	34332745
SGT	950	Cox, Gilford W.	38067334
PVT	590	Henline, Robert G.	34436009

822nd Air Engineering SQ

RANK	MOS	NAME	ASN
1/SGT	502	Merkine, Yale (NMI)	32191122
TEC/4	955	Lajoie, George E.	36341455
T/SGT	647	Lindeke, Raymond (NMI) Jr	39378266
SGT	647	Vogt, Donald J.	32138747
TEC/4	647	Fletcher, Merton R.	32138747
TEC/5	951	Demby, Sanford J.	13159392
TEC/5	951	Walecka, George (NMI)	11052694
PFC	647	Armbruster, John J.	13115103
TEC/4	238	Beck, Rufus W.	38105776
TEC/4	239	Lehrke, Leroy F.	35312990
PFC	239	Grace, William D.	31291545

Capt. Trout, 01638688, was transferred per the same 8th Air Force order into the 466th HQ and Base SV Squadron.

Before the organization was disbanded, additional personnel changes took place. On April 1st, T/5 Richard Van Saun, 32463149, was transferred to the Infantry OCS School, 9th Reinforcement Depot, APO 545, per Para. 2, S.O. #89, 1st Air Division. On April 3rd, PFC James Doyle, 17122464, followed in Van Saun's footsteps, being transferred per Para. 5, S.O. #91, HQ 1st Air Division. PVT. John Ozack, 32448377, was the first, and last, man that the unit lost to the ranks of the Infantry. He was transferred to the 12th Reinforcement Depot, per Para. 9, S.O. #80, HQ, 67th Fighter Wing.

On April 2nd, PFC Michael Farley, 37262595, was transferred to the 1101st Signal Company at Station 369, per Para. 2, S.O. #69, dated 2 April 1945.

The only addition to the unit was that of CPL. Edward Carson, 13128857. Shortly after joining, he was sent on DS to Station 141, per Para. 1, S.O. #71 to help set up the control tower at that station. He was gone from April 3rd – 7th.

Thus the 1029th Signal Company, Service Group, comes to an end. Since its origins as the 29th Signal Platoon over four years ago, the unit has seen service at McChord Field, Washington; Lockburne Field, Columbus, Ohio; Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania; Ft. Dix and Camp Kilmer, New

Jersey; and at Station 367, England. Its personnel has ranged from a mere handful at McChord Field to several hundred at Tobyhanna, where it served as a training and replacement unit. Several of its members have gone to various OCS schools and are now serving in all parts of the world. Others, still enlisted men, received specialist training with the organization, were transferred out, and are now carrying out their duties in every theater of war. Wherever the unit has been, its duties have been carried out to the utmost of its abilities, and an enviable reputation has been built up. During its life, the organization has had three commanding officers. However, one served for only a few weeks, so the other two are usually remembered when commanding officers are thought of, these being Major Pettit and the present commander, Capt. Trout. Major Pettit was a 1st Lieutenant when he assumed command, Capt. Trout a second lieutenant. No other organization ever possessed more conscientious, thoughtful, and likeable officers than these two men.

The company is no more, but its spirit will carry on wherever a former 1029th Signal member goes.

John D. Benner
S/SGT.
Unit Historian

**EIGHTH AIR FORCE
FIRST AIR DIVISION
67TH FIGHTER WING
20TH FIGHTER GROUP
1029TH Signal Company
March 1945**

1029th SIGNAL COMPANY
AAF STA 367 APO 557
U. S. ARMY

Personnel changes continued to highlight the history of the 1029th signal company during the month of March. Some men were lost, others gained. Most important of these changes was the transfer of 1st Lt. Kenneth R. Slater, O-1641803, to the 9th Reinforcement Depot Training Depot, Ground Reinforcement Command. This command is on the Continent, functioning as a training unit for those transferred from other branches of the service into the Infantry. Many weeks ago, Lt. Slater made application to be transferred to the Infantry, feeling that his years spent in the Cavalry, his knowledge of weapons, and his ability to handle men could be of greater value in combat than on an air base. His transfer was granted per Para. 2, S.O.#80, HQ, 8th Air Force. Lt. Slater's loss will be sorely felt by this organization. He had been a member of the company since the early months of 1943, joining the unit at Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania. From that time on he functioned in many capacities, that of Signal Supply Officer being his chief duty and responsibility. Both as an officer and as a man he was well liked by every member of the unit. In all actions he was fair, impartial, and considerate. We all feel sure that wherever he goes, and whatever he does, his duty will be well executed. Our loss will be someone's gain.

T/4 Robert B. McCauley, 38164254, was also transferred on March 24th. On DS in various parts of the continent for many months, T/4 McCauley was finally transferred to the 57th Fighter Control Squadron, per Para. 11, SO# 79, HQS, 1st Air Division.

Three new men joined the company this month, compensating in numbers for the men lost. Pfc Frank Agliano, 39085231, who had reached this station through the plan of rotating men from combat units, was transferred into our unit from the 20th Fighter Group, per para. 7, S.O. # 59 from the 1st Division of the 1st Army on the 16th of March. Agliano has seen plenty of army service, tough army service. For two years he was stationed in the Aleutian Islands; last fall he reached the ETO, and saw action during the winter, taking part in the battle of Runstedt's Salient. Now, he is most happy to be a member of the 8th Air Force. "Just like being back in civilian life", he says.

On the 19th of March, PFC John E. White, 38230362, joined the organization per Para. 4, SO #61, this Headquarters. A radio operator, he had spent some two years in the States, most of it at Ft. Jackson, Mississippi, before being shipped overseas. He joined our unit on his seventh day in the ETO. Pfc white is a soldier of long standing, having completed twelve years in the National Guard.

The third man to join the Signal Company during the month was Cpl. Edward S. Carson, 13128857, who was transferred from the 97th Hq. & Hqs. Squadron this station, per para 5, S.O. #48, dated 5 March. Cpl. Carson is another radio man and long felt that he could be more useful in a signal organization. Finally, his request was granted.

Three promotions were made on March 25. The following men were promoted from T/5 to T/4 per Par 1, S.O. #65, this Headquarters, dated March 25, 1945: Rufus Beck, 38105776, John K. Burke, 20149694, Joseph Fishman, 36607806. T/4 Beck is chief of the T & T repair section, T/4 Fishman, chief switchboard operator, and T/4 Burke, a member of the cryptographic section.

Pfc William Grace, 31291545, spent another stretch in the 303rd Hospital, being confined from the 2nd - 24th of March. This time his ailment was diagnosed as arthritis. Pfc Grace has long been troubled with this chronic ill without benefiting from his many trips to the hospital and sick call. Refrainment from any physical exercise has been recommended by the medical authorities.

T/4 John K. Burke was appointed as V.D. Advisor for the organization in the early part of the month. The unit's V.D. rate at the present time is 42, in comparison with 45 for the entire 1st Air Division. However, although the rate seems high, the unit has had but one case of V.D. in a four year period.

Communications ran smoothly during the past month. No trouble was experienced along physical lines, the fine weather no doubt being partly responsible. Traffic in Signal Center, the code room, and on the switchboard was far above average. No definite reason can be given, although many can be mentioned. Increased missions due to favorable flying weather, the swift progress of the war during the past few weeks, and the coming of spring have probably all had a part to play in the more numerous amount of messages and phone calls.

T/5 Richard Van Saun has applied for Infantry OCS and has to date appeared before the boards at this station and at 1st Air Division. Results of the latest hearing have not as yet been received.

With the advent of spring, the members of the company are becoming sport conscious once again. A volleyball court has been constructed in the area and almost each afternoon sees a goodly number engaged in a spirited game. In the near future, the softball team will hold its first practice. Although two men have been lost from last year's team which won 14 games in a row, it is still hoped that another winning combination can be put on the field.

John D. Benner
S/SGT
Unit Historian

**8th Air Force
1st Air Division
67th Fighter Wing
20th Fighter Group**

1029TH Signal Co. Sv. Gp.

26 Jan. – 25 Feb 1945

1029th Signal Company, Sv. Gp.
AAF Sta 367, APO 557
U. S. Army

Cupid shot his arrow into the midst of the Signal Company again last month, and this time hit T/5 James A. Murphy, 13089984. His marriage to Olive Elsie Jackson of the Women's Land Army on February 17th culminated a romance which started better than a year ago. The nuptials took place at Wellingboro, the home of the bride. The happy couple honeymooned at Stoke on Trent. Mrs. Murphy is withdrawing from the Land Army to accept a part time job....T/5 Murphy will retain his position in the army. This marriage marked the third for our organization since coming to England some eighteen months ago. Greater than the number is the percentage that it represents; almost 10% have now left the state of single blessedness.

On February 24th, t/4 George E. Lajoie, 36341455, returned from eight months of DS on the Continent with the 401st Signal Company, Avn. Most of his time on the Continent was spent near Eices, Holland, not far from Aachen. A supply man, T/4 Lajoie's duty was to requisition and secure materials of all kinds.

Pfc Thomas Higgins, 32982534, was transferred to the 5th Emergency Rescue Squadron, Station 565, on February 8th. Although Higgins was with the company for almost a year, the greater part of this time was spent on DS.

Pfc Stanley Neff, 35602691, returned from the 303rd Hospital on February 17th, after having a cyst removed from his foot. Besides picking up a few pounds in weight, Pfc Neff also managed to add a few paper pounds to his wallet.

The month of February was a hectic month for the telephone installation and maintenance section. Due to the ever rebuilding and modification of the airdrome for additional facilities, it was the construction of aircraft hardstands that disrupted the telephone setup. When this airbase was laid out, telephone cables were installed underground before the construction of the runways, perimeter track and buildings. Not having sufficient markers or mole-track impressions to follow the contour of the cabling, the first rupture came when one of the long spikes punctured "B" cable feeding several operational circuits. A cable locator was obtained from the local GPO representative and although this did not end all trouble experienced, it did reduce it to a minimum. The final work on the hardstands damaged the cable again, but it was repaired once more in a matter of a few hours. The work of the engineers, although perturbing to the telephone section, was welcomed by the supply section. They now have a new cement road to facilitate loading and unloading of signal supplies.

In a minor change of duty, Pfc George Hvizda and T/5 Sanford Demby switched supply positions, the former leaving signal supply to take over company supply, while the latter made the reverse change.

Although the call for men to join the Infantry has not affected our company in a physical sense as yet, it has stirred up a definite amount of discussion, wondering, and some action. T/5 Van Saun, and Pfc James Doyle have both applied for Infantry OCS and are now awaiting action on their papers. The future will, no doubt, have more far reaching effect than has thus far taken place.

The company day-room was further added to this month by the acquisition of a snooker table from the Special Service Department. The table had to be set up before being played upon, a none too easy job.

However, the work was accomplished by several of the outfit's technicians and already the table has provided many hours of entertainment.

T/5 Richard Van Saun continues to be one of the mainstays on the station basketball team. In a recent contest against Honington, he suffered a broken nose, which is now healing nicely.


JOHN D. BENNER, S/SGT
UNIT HISTORIAN

**8th Air Force
1st Air Division
67th Fighter Wing
20th Fighter Group**

1029TH Signal Co. Sv. Gp.

26 Dec. 1944 – 25 Jan 1945

1029TH SIGNAL CO., SV. GP.
AAF STA 367, APO 557
U.S. ARMY

The first month of real winter that it has been our misfortune to see since leaving the States had a definite effect upon the activities of the Signal Company. Whether it was the unusual cold, and the presence of snow, or whether it was the fact that operations were below par, the Signal boys had a very quiet month in all ways.

We were all glad to see Pfc Tom Higgins return from DS on January 15th from Det. B, Flight Section, 65th Fighter Wing, which in Tom's opinion, was just a fancy title for permanent K.P. For over six months Pfc Higgins did nothing but pull one detail after another. At present he is working with Cpl Johnson and the wire crew.

On January 6th, Pvts. Hansborough, Helms, Higgins, and Hvizda were made Pfc's per C.O.#1, 1945. It is a coincidence that all the men receiving promotions have a surname beginning with the letter 'H'.

The month saw a few more hospital cases than usual. T/5 George Walecka was listed as a non-battle casualty on New Year's Eve. The medical report read as follows: laceration 1/2 inch, left eyebrow; concussion, moderate severe upper lip. Officially, T/5 Walecka does not know what happened, but it is evident that someone did not treat him with undue kindness.

Pfc Stanley Neff entered the 303rd General Hospital on January 12th to have a cyst removed from his left foot. To date, the cyst has not been removed, and Pfc Neff is reclining on a soft bed and watching the pretty nurses go by.

Also among the hospital cases was our good cook, Sgt. Claude Strobeck who spent from Jan. 7th - 13th in the 303rd General Hospital, also with a cyst.

The bachelor division of the company is soon to be subtracted from. T/5 James Murphy recently obtained permission to get married. So, within the near future, this column should be carrying the story of another wedding.

During the month, the Signal Company was given the job of retrieving and reinstalling Tanoy speakers. Many of these had been disconnected and were being used as speakers on private radio sets. Although the work on the system does not mean that the Signal Company will have the duty of further maintaining the network, it does stand to reason that because of their endeavor, the system was put back in working order.

A switchover of offices was made this past week, in which Capt. Trout moved his signal office into the room previously occupied by the Signal Center and the Signal Center took over the office left vacant by the captain. This necessitated moving the teleprinters, but the job was completed in a few hours time with the combined efforts of Capt. Trout, T/Sgt Lindeke, Sgt. Lehrke, and Pfc Grace. The move will give Capt. Trout more privacy, and will make the Signal Center more accessible to Headquarters personnel.

The wire section felt proud of their work, when during the Christmas spell of frost and high winds only one field line was lost out of an aggregate of 40 miles. And that was due to a limb falling on the line. The weight of the frost itself had no damaging effects.

The switchboard, as usual, enjoyed a good month. At present two administrative boards are in use with 120 extensions, plus 27 parallel phones, making a total of 147 phones. One operations board is being used, with 31 of its 44 drops in constant use.

Signal Supply shall soon have a cement driveway whereby drivers can easily reach the warehouse, rather than churning through the mud, as they have been forced to do since last fall. Frames and a foundation has been laid, so it should not be too much longer before the cement is poured in.

A note of humor entered into proceedings this week. Sgt. Lehrke and Pfc Grace have recently added an additional duty to their already large list....that of repairing the Nickelodeon machine at officers' mess. Because the reward is usually a drink or two of scotch, the boys make frequent checks to see that all is going well. Last Saturday Pfc Grace stuck two shillings in the slot machine in the mess and hit the jackpot, winning in the neighborhood of three pounds, ten shillings. At that rate the new job is turning out to be quite a profitable one.


JOHN D. BENNER, S/SGT
UNIT HISTORIAN

**Eighth Air Force
First Bombardment Division
67th Fighter Wing
20th Fighter Group**

1029TH Signal Company

December 1944

1029TH SIGNAL COMPANY
AAF STA 367
APO 557, U S ARMY

The month of December saw further changes in the personnel of the company. On December 11th Pfc Charles W. Foy, Jr, 39102595, was transferred to the 311th Signal Company, Avn. at the 1st Bomb Division. On the same day, Sgt. William Shimkus, 37133198, was sent on to the same organization. These losses were a sad blow to the unit, for not only were these men key to the cryptographic and radio sections, respectively, but they were also well liked and thought of by everyone. Sgt. Shimkus did not stop at 1st Bomb Division, but was rushed onto France, as was T/Sgt Biela last month.

On the same day that the above two departed, Pvt Robert G. Henline, 34436009, joined the 11th Station Complement, Station 110.

Two promotions were forthcoming on the first of the month. Pvt Ray Kosmatka, 35370489, was appointed T/5 per S.O. #246, Para. 4, Hqs, Station 367, dated December 1. Pvt William Browning, 33442500, was appointed to Pfc on the same date per Company Order #5.

T/5 Fred Phillips, after spending well over a month at the 49th Station Hospital, recovering from hernia operation, rejoined the unit on December 9th.

Schools still claim our personnel occasionally. From December 17th-23rd, Capt. Trout was on DS at the Post War Army Education School, No. 24 Upper Brook Street, London. The captain returned full of enthusiasm for the proposed plans.

On December 20th, S/Sgt Nick Signorelli was appointed safety NCO, and the following day he performed his first duties at his new chore when T/5 George Walecka, 11052694, suffered a slight injury to his kneecap in a fall from a bicycle. George was listed as a non-battle casualty.

Loss of personnel necessitated moving the radio station from its usual home in Battle Headquarters on the Air Base, to a position in the Station Hq Building. Here the station approximates the signal office, signal center, and cryptographic room, thus putting everything under one roof. An emergency power supply has been set up whereby both the radio station and the teletype room can operate simultaneously with just a flip of a switch.

A change was made in the wiring system in which all pay telephones on the base were connected so as to be controlled from the main frame in the switchboard room. At any moment these phones can now be made either operative or non-operative, as the case may demand. This new setup saves the wire crew lots of work, for previously, when a mission was in the offing, it necessitated removing the fuses from all the phones manually. The same effect can be obtained under the new setup in a moment's time.

Because the switchboard has also felt the loss of personnel, three boards have been set into operation to aid procedure. This allows one man to handle all calls during the slack hours during the night.

During the month the physical fitness tests laid down by 1st Bomb Division were complied with. Each man in the unit ran 300 yards, and did as many push-ups, and pull-ups as he possibly could. In fact,

some did too many as was evidenced by many a sore muscle the following day. Pfc James Doyle proved to be the speed demon in the unit when he raced the 300 yard course in 38 seconds, which is really running.

Each Wednesday, and one Monday, during the month the unit supplied 20 or more men for the Mobile Striking Force. For a while each section in the company had to supply a certain quota for each exercise, but two weeks ago this system was changed; two squads were chosen to be a permanent setup for this force.

Christmas saw the unit as happy as it could be overseas for the second holiday season in a row. Things were bettered when a large mail call was held on Sunday, December 17th. Just about everyone received 10 or more letters, and as packages had come through in good order for past weeks, the boys were pretty happy.


JOHN D. BENNER, S/SGT
UNIT HISTORIAN

**Eighth Air Force
First Bombardment Division
67th Fighter Wing
20th Fighter Group**

1029TH Signal Company

November 1944

1029TH SIGNAL COMPANY
AAF STA 367, APO 557
U. S. ARMY

The Radio Section of the 1029th Signal Company was sadly depleted this past month when one of its members was transferred outright and another was sent on DS for an indefinite period of time. Cpl. Leon C. Sawyer, 36524945, was transferred suddenly on the 25th of November to the 489th Bomb Group at Halesworth, per Par. 6, S.O. #239, Hqs, 1st Bomb Division, dated 24 November 1944. The advent of T/Sgt John W. Biela, 31048294, was not as unexpected, for some time ago the company had been notified to ready a high speed operator for transfer. However, T/Sgt Biela was not transferred, but rather sent on DS to the 8th Air Service Command Service Center, Station A83, per letter 8A8, dated November 7th. Although nothing official has been forthcoming since his departure on November 11th, it is felt that T/Sgt Biela has found his way to France. If so, he will have the distinction of being the first member of the company to serve in that country.

On November 9th, S/Sgt John D. Benner, 36120822, and T/5 John K. Burke, 20149694, attended a day's refresher course in cryptography at Hqs, 1st Bomb Division, per Par. 3, S.O.#230, Hq, and Sta 347, dated 6 November 1944. Primarily, the purpose of the meeting was to better acquaint the cryptographic sections of the different stations with one another, and with Capt. Lacroix, of 1st Bomb Division. To that end it was highly successful. Such meetings are highly beneficial in ironing out items of a controversial nature, thereby eliminating undue paperwork, and better still, costly errors in cryptographic work.

It has been learned by letter that Cpl. Edward Strehlin, recently returned to the Zone of the Interior from this organization, is now residing at the Atlantic City Rest Home. The 'rest' is to last for a period of roughly two months. Thus far, it is not known what Cpl Strehlin's duties will be thereafter.

Social headlines were written by T/4 William Shimkus, 37133198, of St. Louis, Mo. when he became wed to Miss Joyce Baker of Rushton, located near Northampton. Nuptials were held at Oundle, Northants on October 26th at 2:15 p.m. before the Justice of the Peace. The new bride and groom spent a week's honeymoon in London.

Operationally, the month was a quiet one. This does not imply that it was not a busy one, but simply that the work was accomplished with a minimum of trouble due to weather or mechanical difficulties.

During the month, a new duty was assumed by the Signal Supply Section. It is now charged with the duty of handling and issuing chaff, which is nothing more than long strips of tin foil used by the pilots on operational missions to spoil the accuracy of radio-controlled anti-aircraft artillery. A minimum of 100 cases of chaff is to be kept on hand at all times. This is really more than enough to supply three operational missions, which would consume approximately 50 to 60 cases, the latter being the absolute minimum to be in stock.

A new development in the communication between pilot, control tower, and air control truck was worked out with the installation of the receiving end of a VHF radio in the control truck, allowing the personnel there to hear any conversation between the pilot coming in for a landing, and the control tower. This greatly assists the truck in the landing of aircraft. Lines were laid to six different points on the

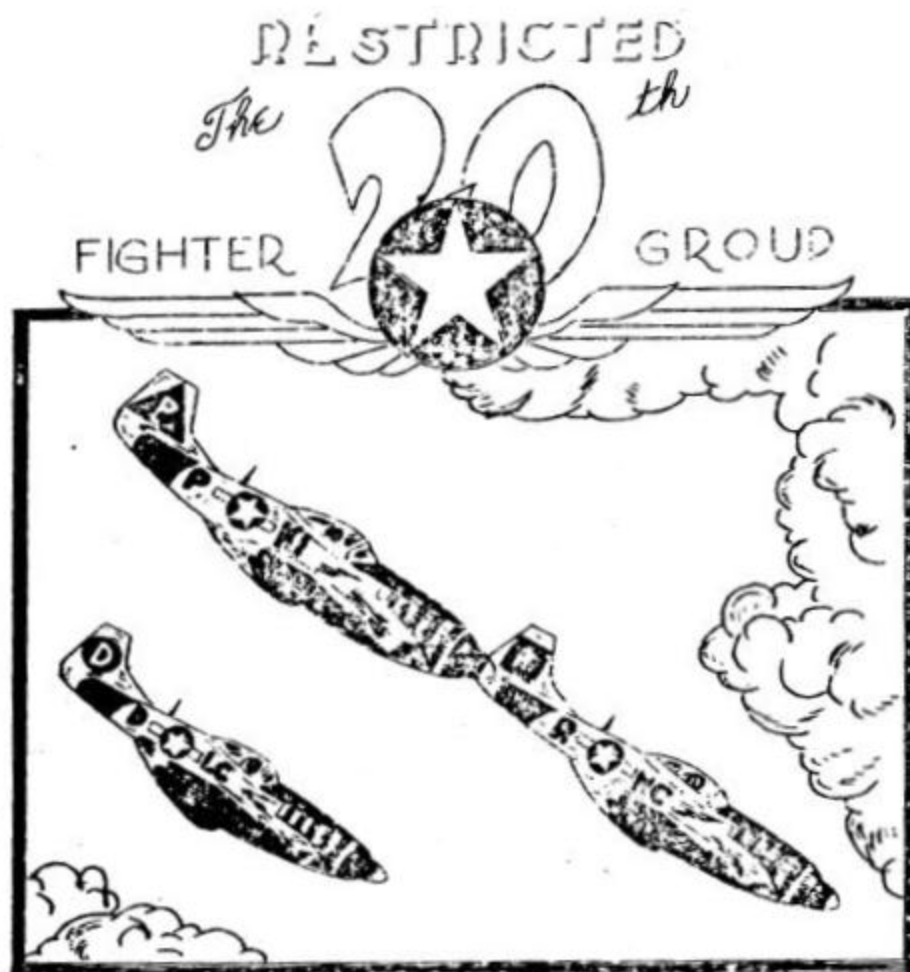
field from the tower for this service. The above work was accomplished through the coordinated efforts of the Signal Wire Crew and the Central Radio Workshop.

The new phone directory, more complete than any previous one, was disapproved by 1st Bomb Division because standard phone numbers as laid down in FM 24-5 were not followed. The Signal Officer was aware of the fact that the numbers did not comply with those laid down in the field manual, but previous directories had been approved by both Wing and Fighter Command Hqs, using numbers originated at this station for matters of convenience. This would imply that additional coordination between higher Hqs is needed to standardize the organization and procedure used at subordinate stations.

The unit's weekly orientation lecture continued in conjunction with the series of lectures promoted and conducted by the Station Special Service Office. At one of the company meetings, Lt. J. W. Mason, Jr. of the Weather Section, gave an interesting description of the duties and work of that section. Lt. Mason broke the technical terms of weather down into interesting terminology, and created a favorable impression with the wealth of enlightening information that he presented.

In the field of athletics, the company basketball team held more practice sessions in readiness for the Peterborough Red Cross League which is to commence in December.


JOHN D. BENNER, S/SGT
UNIT HISTORIAN



TELEPHONE
DIRECTORY
RESTRICTED

(Original document contains 13 pages of telephone directory information, not transcribed here)

**EIGHTH AIR FORCE
FIRST BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
67TH FIGHTER WING
20TH FIGHTER GROUP**

1029TH Signal Company

29 Sept to 25 Oct 1944

STATION SIGNAL OFFICE
AAF STATION 367
APO 637 U.S. ARMY

History of 1029th Signal Company, Sept. 25 - Oct. 25 (1944).

Although there are numerous sources of telephone cable damage, this past month brought out a new fault which stymied not only Signal personnel, but some of the GPO's engineers as well. Several military circuits started giving trouble shortly after a B-17 went off of runway 26; the end of the runway where almost all of the telephone and teleprinter cables pass under. After a survey of the faults, it was determined that the main cable feeding to Wing was damaged and moisture was disabling the circuits. Inspection showed a large indentation in the earth over and near the path the main cable follows. Due to the fault not showing up until after darkness, portable lights were rigged up and both Signal and GPO personnel started probing for a ruptured cable. At the same time a megger, an instrument used in this particular case to determine the distance of the fault from the main frame, was being used for an accurate check as to the location of the fault.

After an hour or so of probing for a fault at the end of the runway, personnel engaged were notified by the tester at the main frame that the fault was approximately three miles from the station. Being too dark to check the aerial cable, the faulty circuits were switched over to usable circuits for the night.

The following morning, the repair crew followed the path of the aerial cable to a spot three miles distant from the main frame. Inspection of the cable showed a damaged spot of about a foot in length and full of holes to the extent that it looked like a sieve. Someone had made a kill with a shot gun; namely, one aerial telephone cable.

* * * * *

After a year's operation using the British system of carrier frequency, Defense Teleprinter System, a switch has been made over to the individual physical teleprinter circuits. Two reasons have caused this change to come about. The first, scarcity of teleprinter channel bays, is the heart of the defense teleprinter network. The second, the station has enough circuits to Wing to use individual pairs of wires for each teleprinter in use.

* * * * *

Several members of the company tried for the carbine rifle team of the station, which is to compete with other teams of the 1st Bomb Division in a play-off. Lt. Kenneth R. Slater marked up a score of 362 out of a possible 400 to be high man for the company.

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On the whole it was a smooth operating month for all sections of the company. Especially was this so in the Telephone Section, where less faults and difficulties were experienced than in any month during our stay in the ETO.

* * * * *

Although quite secretive about the whole affair, Sgt. William Shimkus gave every indication that he would soon leave the circle of single blessedness and enter into the institution of marriage. Before leaving on furlough, Sgt. Shimkus was presented with a cash gift of approximately £25 by the members of the company.

* * * * *

The basketball team held its first practice during the final week of October. Seven members of the company showed up for the first workout on the hardwood floor of the Peterborough Red Cross Club. A practice game was held with members of the 20th Fighter Group Hqs. team. Although no definite score was kept, the Signal boys more than held their own.


JOHN D. BENNER, S/SGT
UNIT HISTORIAN

Dots and dashes 1029th Signal Co.

The past few weeks has found the boys of Capt. Trout maintaining communications on the base without any matters of serious consequence appearing. Although monotonous, this shows that the Signal boys have been on the 'ball' . . . to them no news is good news.

Several members of the company took enforced vacations recently because of bad colds, sore feet, or the like. On June 22nd Sgt John Benner, 36120522, was put in quarters because of bunions on his right foot. After sleeping for three days, he was kicked out on the 25th, and can still be seen hobbling about, which fact has brought the name 'Gimpy' down upon his head. July 3rd saw John K. Burke, erstwhile T/5 from Castleton, Vermont being confined because of a serious cold and high temperature. His stay lasted until the 7th, and probably would have lasted longer if there had been any feminine nurses to care for him. Cpl. Edward Strehlin, 33008426, who had been confined at his home in Peterborough because of his wife having measles, finally returned to duty on July 2nd. It was much like a homecoming, for Ed had been away from the company since the 14th of June. The same day saw Pfc John Armbruster, 13115103, being sent to the 49th Station Hospital where he is as yet confined because of a cyst.

Always eager to obtain more knowledge in the maintenance and repair of teletype machines Sgt. Leeroy Lehrke, 35312990, was most happy when he learned that he was being sent to Sta F-314 for an additional month of instruction and training. Sgt. Lehrke already has spent one month at the school, so should be quite expert at the completion of his present course. The month will also give him a chance to renew old friendships with the female populace of Watford, a neat, little town just outside of Sta. F-341. Perhaps it was mostly because of the latter reason that Sgt. Lehrke wore such a broad smile the day he left.

Sgt. Gilford Cox, 38067334, obtained a bit of higher learning by attending a Bomb Reconnaissance School at Sta. 520 for a week commencing on the 27th of June.

A promotion was in order of Stanley E. Neff, 35602691, on June 29th. 'Pappy', as he is known to the boys, left the ranks of the privates on this date, and is now sporting a slender stripe on each sleeve. It isn't much of a raise, Pappy admits, but it allows him to stick in those poker games for an extra hand or two.

A bit of naturalization was carried on June 27th, when Pvts Garah Helms, 34674385, Thomas Higgins, 32982534, and George Hvizda, 33515096, additions to our company since arrival overseas, were transferred from the Air Corps to the Signal Corps officially. Although they had been members of our organization since last winter, the official transfer was not consummated until this late date. And well it was, for there is no worse feeling than for a Signal Corps man to be mistaken as an Air Corps member.

For a period of three days Lt. Kenneth Slater became C.O. of the outfit while Capt. Trout, accompanied by 1st Sgt Yale Merkin, 32191122, and Sgt. Gilford Cox, 38067334, traveled to Wormingford where they spent three days with Det. 'A' of the 1029th Signal Co. Since Det 'A' has been separated from the parent unit since last October, the meeting was one of co-ordination and checking of records and equipment.

In the field of sports, the Signal boys kept up their fine baseball record with an overwhelming victory over Capt. Minor's Ordnance team. The score was 19-7 and was sweet revenge for earlier defeats at the hands of the Ordnance outfit. As the game was merely for practice, it had no bearing on the league standings. At present the Signal Company is in third place with 11 victories as against only 3 defeats.

In the field of education, T/5 Frank J. Rose, Jr., 17044397, is becoming a veritable walking dictionary due to the many new words he has learned to use in the G.I. College English and Grammar class. With words of three and four syllables flowing from his mouth with the ease of water spouting from a spring, Frank is fast attaining stature far loftier than his physical height of some six feet.

1029th Signal Company July 18th - 25th.

If you happened to be at the theater the night of July 24th you were among those who witnessed the Star Spangled Banner being flashed on the screen upside down. The mistake was quickly rectified and our national anthem played correctly. At the time of the mis-que, Tech Sgt Raymond Lindeke of this organization was one of the operators on duty. However, Ray maintains the mistake took place on the 'other machine'. It's a waterproof alibi for no one is in a position to prove that he wasn't to blame. Needless to say, Ray has been the target for much razzing.

On July 18th Capt. Gordon Trout and T/5 Walter Smoot departed for London where they spent three days at the Education Branch of the Special Services Division applying themselves to an orientation course. Besides the benefit of the Army teaching, they also gathered valuable information on how to 'sweat out' buzz bombs. Capt. Trout said many landed close enough to make the building in which he was quartered shake and the legs of his bed to vibrate. The worst part was waiting for the silence to end once the motor of the buzz bomb had ceased and the projectile began its earthward journey.

Sgt Leeroy Lehrke returned from his teletype course at Headquarters, VIII Fighter Command on July 18th with more stories of the buzz bombs. He witnessed one passing overhead, no higher than 500 feet. Many of his hours were spent in the safety of an air-raid shelter while he was at the school.

The softball team continued its winning ways in the opening game of the second round in defeating Capt. Minor's Ordnance boys by a score of 12-0. This victory broke a tie for third place which existed between the two teams.

During the week Cpl. Van Saun pitched a masterful game for the hardball team against Grafton-Under-Wood but was defeated in 12 innings by a score of 1-0. Dick allowed only 4 hits and fanned 18 batters, but was the victim of 7 errors, one of which finally decided the extra inning tilt.

20th Fighter Group History, cont'd.

1029th Signal Company

The Signal boys have the distinct honor of holding down first place in the current bond drive of the 8th Air Force. And at the present time have surpassed their quota by a wide margin; their sales stand at 367%, or almost three times again what the quota demanded. Top performers in the drive have been Pvt McDearman T. Hansbrough, 14155930, who has purchased a \$1,000 Bond, and T/Sgt Raymond Lindeke, 39378266, who has thus far purchased Bonds amounting to \$650.00 and who promises to add still more this month. The boys are hoping to surpass the 400% mark before the deadline arrives.

At the present time the Company is without an active officer. Captain Trout left on August 9th to attend an Anti-aircraft school in Northern Ireland, leaving Lt Slater in sole command. On Sunday evening, August 13th, the good lieutenant was engaging in a game of volleyball when he suffered a sprained ankle. A phone has been installed at his bedside, enabling him to handle any problems necessitating the decision of an officer. Otherwise the boys are shifting for themselves and so far doing a good job too.

Four casualties have thus far been suffered due to the bee invasion. This is considered low in comparison to the number of encounters engaged in by our stalwarts. Those suffering wounds are 1st Sgt Yale Merkin, T/5th's Beck, Hurtel and Van Saun. Pfc's Chas Foy Jr., thus far tops our fighters with five victories in a single day.

On August 4th the third company party was held; this one in celebration of a year's overseas duty. However the plans of mice and men often go astray--as they certainly did in this case. The greatest disappointment was the lack of women, due to the faulty planning and competition with fine weather and three other dances. The less said about the party the better.



The company softball team continues to roll along the victory path. In the past two weeks four victories have been added against the 55th and 77th Fighter Squadrons, the 44th Station Complement and the 97th-20th Headquarters teams. These victories placed the Signal boys in sole possession of second place on the station.



1029th Signal Company

Cpl. Edward Strehlin of the 1029th Signal Co, departed early this month on the first leg of his journey back to the Zone of the Interior. He is among the initial number of men to be returned to the United States under the new rotation plan. Although happy to return to the States, Cpl Strehlin was reluctant to leave his pretty English wife and daughter behind. The separation will be of a temporary nature however, as Mrs. Strehlin and their daughter Elizabeth expect to join him in the very near future.

The corporal, who is 31 years of age, has been a member of the armed forces since April of 1941 and has completed 26 months of overseas services. Coming to England in 1942, Cpl Strehlin met Miss Joyce Adams. A short while later found him in North Africa as a part of the Allied invasion, but his

thoughts were still in England. Therefore when his company was returned to the States, he sent in a request to be transferred back to England. This was granted and he arrived early in September, 1943. Being used to quick conquests he wasted little time in overcoming any resistance locally and led Miss Joyce to the altar of St Andrews Catholic Church in Croyden on September 21, 1943.

On 1 October 1943 he was assigned to the 1029th Signal company at this station where he has spent the better part of a year as a switchboard operator. His home is at 2332 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland.




1029TH SIGNAL COMPANY, SERVICE GROUP
97th Service Group
APO 637 U.S. Army

3 December 1943

SUBJECT: History of Unit.

TO: Headquarters, VIII Fighter Command, APO 367, U.S. Army
(Attention Historian) (thru Group Historian)

1. In compliance with Fighter Command Memorandum: Number 125-1, the history of this unit is submitted:
 - a. Assignment and transfer of all Officer and Enlisted Personnel.
 - (1) 1st Lt. James E. parry reld fr atchd unasgd and asgd Sta AAF F-436, 9th F.C., PP 19, SO #17, Sect. 1, 8 AFRD dtd 20 Nov 1943.
 - b. Strength of the organization by Officers and Enlisted Men:
 - (1) 1 November 1943 – 2 Officers (asgd); 50 Enlisted Men, 3 Officers (Atchd)
 - (2) 30 November 1943 – 2 Officers (Asgd); 50 Enlisted Men; 2 Officers (Atched)


GORDON W. TROUT
1st Lieut., Signal Corps
Commanding.

1029TH SIGNAL COMPANY, SERVICE GROUP
97th Service Group
APO 637 U.S. Army

6 November 1943

SUBJECT: History of Unit.

TO: Headquarters, VIII Fighter Command, APO 367, U.S. Army
(Attention Historian) (thru Group Historian)

1. In compliance with Fighter Command Memorandum: Number 125-1, the history of this unit is submitted:
 - a. Assignment and transfer of all Officer and Enlisted Personnel.
 - (1) Cpl. Edward W. Strehlin asgd and jd this organization from Hqs Det. Special Troops, ECOUSA per par 2, SO#28, Hqs AAF Station F-367 dated 1 October 1943.
 - b. Following named Officers atchd and joined this organization per par 5, SO#249 Hqs Repl. Control Depot, APO 635 (AAF Station 594) dated 23 October 1943

NAME

RANK

Parry, James E.

1st Lieut., SC

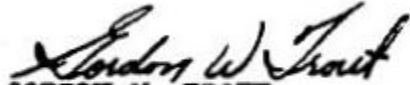
Miller, Gerson S.

2nd Lieut., SC

Hauger, Lewis S.

2nd Lieut., SC

- c. Strength of the organization by Officers and Enlisted Men:
 - (1) 1 October 1943 – 2 Officers (asgd); 49 Enlisted Men
 - (2) 31 October 1943 – 2 Officers (Asgd); 50 Enlisted Men; 3 Officers (Atched)


GORDON W. TROUT
1st Lieut., Signal Corps
Commanding.

**Eighth Air Force
First Bombardment Division
67th Fighter Wing
20th Fighter Group

1029th Signal Company Unit History

Activation Through September 1944**

The initial outfit known today as the 1029th Signal Company was not a Company at all when first activated — it was a Platoon — the 1029th Signal Platoon. On 15 February 1941 the Platoon was activated at McChord Field, Washington, per G.O. #3 Headquarters, GHQ Air Force, Langley Field Virginia and S.O. #37, Air Base Headquarters, McChord Field, Wash., Feb 13th, 1941. But it was a full month later before a cadre of 11 men were transferred from the 320th Signal Company to become the first members of the new Platoon — none of these original men are now with the present organization.

The new platoon grew rapidly. On April 5th, M/Sgt Harper was transferred into the company and for the next year and a half he was to have a big voice in the doings of the company. Sgt Harper was even at this time entering his last hitch in the army. Most of his time had been spent in Alaska as a radio operator for the Alaska communications. Some eighteen years he spent in the wilds living as a civilian, though a member of the forces. When he joined the platoon, he took over the job as acting first sergeant.

By the end of April the platoon had increased its numbers to 23 by the addition of 12 recruits on the 14th of the month. Of this group only one man remains with the present outfit.

From its origin, 2nd Lt Flashman had been assigned as C.O. Now on the 15th of May ratings were handed out and the new C.O. became a 1st Lieutenant. Those were the days of specialists' ratings and the morning reports for the month of May are filled with items, such "Pvt 1st CL specialist 6cl Merrill rated 4cl."

June saw the platoon actually get under way with its work. Men were assigned to the switchboard as operators, a base radio station was set up, and other men were assigned to the teletype station. Most of this was done under a new Commanding Officer -- on June 3rd Lt Flashman was relieved of the command and 1st Lt. Dorn L. Pettit assumed command. He was to remain in command until the early spring of 1943.

Those were the halcyon days of army life. Twenty day furloughs with ten and fifteen day extensions were the rule, not the exception. At McChord Field a three-day pass started on Friday afternoon and ended the following Thursday morning at reveille. Near the base was located Camp Cushman, which was a vacation camp on a lake where everyone was entitled to a week of fun and relaxation. Yes, it was a tough army in those days.

Thus the summer and early fall passed with the platoon busy about its training and new work. Men were sent to Chicago to a teletype school; others were sent on DS to the Ephrata Bombing range as radio

operators; two were sent on DS to the plant school of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, near Portland, Oregon.

In September the platoon was swelled by the arrival of 10 men from Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey. This brought the total up to 41 men, but it wasn't to remain there long. On December 4th, 13 men were transferred to Ft Lawton, Washington, due eventually for overseas duty in the Pacific. But on Dec 7th their lives and ours were changed by the sudden attack on Pearl Harbor. The men transferred out never left Ft Lawton but they were lost to our platoon. On the afternoon of Dec 7th when the first news came over the air waves, there was but a skeleton crew on the base. On pre-war weekends almost everyone went on pass, and Sunday especially was a day of inactivity. I believe we were able to muster about a dozen men in all. Messages started to crack in over the radio and Pvt Walker, who had just begun to work shifts as an operator, sat there with sweat pouring down his forehead, jotting down the messages. He was excited, as it was only natural that he should be, but he took the messages. None of our Officers were on the Base, and Corp Drabek assumed command of the unit and did a good job of planning for eventualities.

As we were located on Puget Sound we were definitely in a danger area and the Base made hurried preparations all that afternoon and evening. By nightfall there were strings of guards all over the base -- around the few airplanes, the hangers, barracks, etc. Most of the guards had never fired a gun, and it proved to be a risky night for anyone who had business outside. All during the night the men out on pass straggled in, being constantly challenged by the guards. In the early morning, a bus coming onto the field either ignored or failed to hear an order to halt, and was fired upon by a machine gun post. Luckily, no one was injured, but the new bus had a neat line of holes about its middle.

Like most army bases, the war caught McChord Field in an unprepared state. There were few planes there and they were old B-18's and B-23's. But December 8th and succeeding days saw squadrons of P-43's, A-29's and B-25's come in rapid succession. Revetments, barricades, and roadblocks were thrown up quickly and the place took on a belligerent aspect. The platoon itself had more work than it could handle, for all methods of communication were overtaxed and extended. The teletype rattled constantly and the radio station had more business than it had ever had before. Our wire crew had lots of new lines to lay and the phone men were kept busy with many new installations. Our platoon was undermanned, but working in conjunction with the 852nd Signal Service Co, the job of getting the messages through was accomplished.

The early months of '42 were busy ones for everyone at McChord Field. The Squadrons on the base were engaged in patrol duty over the Pacific and the coasts of Washington. Places like Seattle, Bremerton Navy Yards and the entire Puget Sound were vital zones. The pilots were in the air many hours, and the foggy climate of Washington was far from an easy place to operate.

In February, in addition to base signal functions, the platoon was given the duty of training signal recruits. On the 21st of February, 170 men were set up in a 'tent-city' and men detailed from our small platoon to care for them. This training of recruits was carried on throughout the year. At times the numbers swelled to near 400 only to drop again when men were shipped to California. From there they went to all imaginable points. Some were sent overseas; others were sent for additional training.

On July 23rd 1942, per paragraph 1, G.O. #69, Hqrs., AAF Air Service Command, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, the 1029th Signal platoon was re-designated 29th Signal Company, Service Group without change

of assignment. This re-designation sort of marked a transitional stage in our development. Before, we had been a small outfit permanently settled on an Air Base. Although our new designation didn't change our immediate status, it could be seen that the future would be full of alterations.

In accordance with regulations the Company undertook training in individual duties. Officially this was done, but actually it made no change whatsoever, for the majority of the company had been at their individual jobs for some months and were already in a semi-skilled or skilled status.

As fall approached, our company was considered as a good one, well trained as a working unit in a zone of operations. Morale was good and the members of the unit were looking forward to working with one another in the future months under more warlike conditions.

But this was not to be. The army was expanding rapidly during these months. New companies were being formed and experienced men needed. In August we lost some of our best radio men to a new organization in California, in September we lost five more men to a hot company in Seattle. Our sections were being broken up, and a lot of our good work and organization was going for naught -- as far as the 29th was concerned.

As September changed into October news came through concerning the parent service group. At last it was to be gathered at Lockbourne Field, Columbus, Ohio. To form it, companies had been selected from all over the United States. It wasn't until the 13th of the month that the company was prepared to start.

Everyone was a bit reluctant in leaving McChord Field; it had been its birthplace and had spent nearly a year and a half. To the honor of the organization, their duties there had been fulfilled in an honorable manner. A lot of ties were broken the day the men left, but that is the way of the army.

From early October (1942) until February (1943) the Company was stationed at Lockbourne Field not far from Columbus, Ohio. It was a new experience being part of a Group and not an independent organization working for a base. However, the tie was more theoretical than actual, for the group was far from a working stage, and most of the duties performed by the Company were of a base nature. Once again members of the unit found themselves operating the message center and teletype station, running signal supply and helping out generally in the functioning of the base. One new activity was taken on here, that of operations communications between air and ground. This was done by means of a mobile GMC radio station. The planes worked with were B-17's on training flights from the field.

The personnel of the company changed a good deal during the few months stay. Once again a cadre was selected and more of our seasoned men disappeared. Among these were 1st Sgt Fewell, S/Sgt Harlan, Sgt Walker, Sgt Gray, Sgt Hildreth, Cpl Barker, T/5 Savella, T/5 Brabski, T/5 Wolff and Pvt Teakell. The majority of these men had been with the company for a good while and had worked themselves into positions as section heads. Now they were going and the work had to be done over.

From different camps and schools, new men filtered into the company. Some of these were raw recruits, others were radio operators and repairmen who had completed their training in specialized schools, but who had not as yet had any actual operating experience. From a mere 30 odd men when it had left McChord, the company grew to over 100 in November and soared to 118 on January 20th, 1943 just prior to departure from Lockbourne.

There were also changes in the commissioned personnel of the company. On November 6th, 1st Lt Dorn L Pettit was promoted to the rank of captain. Prior to this, on October 16, 2nd Lt Gordon W Trout had been assigned to the organization from OCS Ft Monmouth. He joined the unit on October 25th and for the first time in the history of the company, or platoon, the organization boasted two Officers. This number was swelled to three on the 24th of November when Warrant Officer Martin T Lushbaugh was assigned and joined the unit.

During January (1943) it was decided at Hempstead NY to send the 1029 to the Tobyhanna Military Reservation in Pennsylvania. This was to be a temporary change only. So on January 20th the advance convoy set out in the Dodge half ton and a jeep, each drawing trailers. The men on this advance convoy were: W/O Lushbaugh, S/Sgt Banner, Sgts Seaman and Wagner, T/4 Sutherland, T/5 Allen, Pfc Brewer, Pvts Emmel and Frank. The trip was a cold one, as a cold wave was sweeping the states. During the two days required for the journey, the thermometer stayed well below zero.

The advance convoy arrived at Tobyhanna on January 21st late in the evening. There wasn't much to see. The reservation had long been used by West Point for summer artillery firing, but for little else. What barracks existed were old and rickety. An old farmhouse served as headquarters. Valley Forge couldn't have looked any worse.

To our surprise we discovered that there were already about a hundred men at Tobyhanna who were designated as the 29th Signal Co detachment. These men had been sent from other camps and schools during the previous two weeks, without the parent company in Columbus being notified.

On January 23rd the rest of the Company arrived from Lockbourne. Thus began four of the most topsy-turvy, but happy months that the unit ever lived through. Problems were endless, and there was never a dull moment either day or night.

The Company was originally sent to Tobyhanna to open a signal training school for service group companies. Theoretically, ours was to be the job of training companies in their individual specialties. Grand plans were drawn up to train something like 300 men a month. Equipment galore was shipped in -- teleprinters, radios, etc. The school was set up and that was as far as it ever got. Command decided at this point that Tobyhanna was unsuitable for a training site so the whole plan was dropped. The school was gradually closed but not before our company made use of it by means of refreshing courses.

The purpose that the company was actually used for was that of a replacement pool. Men were sent to us from all over and in turn shipped to various points to fill other vacancies in units ready to ship. This was far from an ideal setup, for many of the men we received were castoffs that other companies did not desire. Many of the men were strictly undesirables in every sense and a few were even incorrigibles. Just about useless for any purpose and we could not ship them out as replacements. We were simply caught with them. From the men who moved in and out we were able to select many excellent soldiers for our own use, so by the time that we departed our T/O was pretty well filled. Regretfully, we also saw many good men pass through our fingers. Holding ratings that didn't match our T/O or trained for non-signal work, many men were shipped out that would have been a credit to any organization.

As bad as living conditions were -- crowded barracks, furnaces that either were too hot or too cold, wood gathering details, etc. -- we did manage to spend an enjoyable time while at Tobyhanna. For the first time in its history, our company had its own mess. With Jimmy Allen, the peer of cooks, giving out with

his delicacies, the unit lived like kings. Ice cream was plentiful, and it was a strange morning that we didn't have our pork chops or fried eggs for breakfast. And each Sunday we enjoyed a chicken dinner that the Ritz or Astoria couldn't have equaled. However, at the end of three months there was a slight discrepancy in the amount of rations we had drawn and what we were allowed. Although it finally cost the organization \$300 out of the company fund, we all agreed that it was the best investment we could have made.

Despite the intense cold that lingered in the Poconos that winter -- one morning it was 35 below zero -- we managed to keep warm, mainly through the presence of Scranton, which was about eighteen miles distant. The first soldiers to hit the Poconos region, we were received with open arms by the Scrantonians and shown a grand time. None will ever forget the weekends spent there.

The month of February saw a vast shifting of our Commissioned personnel. On Feb 20th Capt Pettit was transferred to the 487th Base HQ and AB Squadron and assumed the position of Base Signal Officer. We all hated to see the Captain leave; many of us had been with him since '41 and hated to break company just when it was starting to appear that we might be going places. This placed 2nd Lt Trout in command, a hard assignment for a newly commissioned Officer but one that was handled capably. On Feb 6th, 2nd Lts Slater and Webster joined the company. They too were from OCS, having been commissioned in the late months of '42. This would have been enough change, but on Feb 10th W/O Lushbaugh was transferred to Bobbins Field, Georgia. Although he had been with the company but a bit over two months, he had become much liked and respected by the men, and it was with sincere regret that we watched him go.

As winter turned into spring the company made good use of a firing range located just outside of Scranton. Day after day, in rain or shine a group would take off in early morning and return in late afternoon. We had nothing but a lot of old Enfields to fire, but even with these a large proportion of the outfit was able to qualify in record fire. A tommy gun range was improvised, and a portion of the company qualified with this arm as well. If for no other reason, the months at Tobyhanna were well spent, for when we rejoined the group at Ft Dix in May, we were the only outfit who had qualified as a majority of its personnel.

On April 25th, while on leave, Lt Trout was promoted to 1st Lt. This was a well-earned promotion, for the ever-changing condition of the outfit was a hard one to handle. It was almost impossible to keep up with the many sudden changes, let alone catch up. And during all this the future of our organization had to be considered, correct men chosen for the right positions, etc.

On May 7th the company was again re-designated, this time to be the 1029th Signal Company. This change meant little more than adding two digits to our address, nothing else was different than before.

The month of May also saw us pull up stakes and on the move once again. May 13th the advance cadre joined the Group at Ft Dix and the day following the entire company followed.

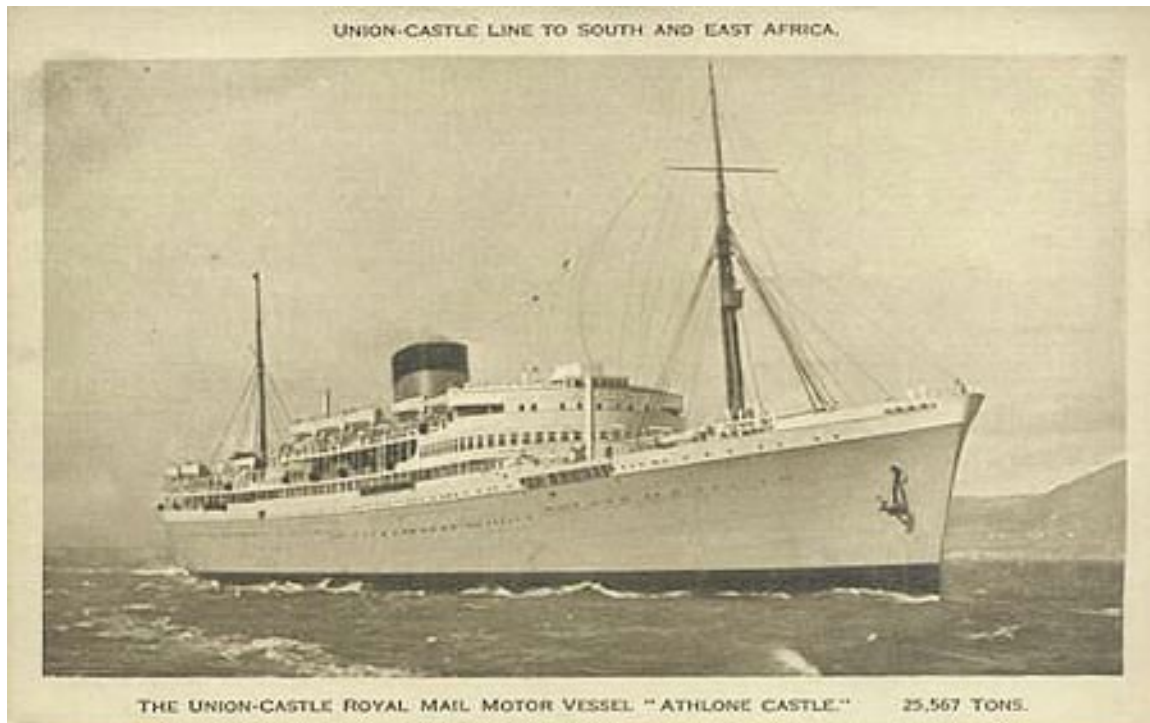
The morning of May 14th (1943) saw a long line of trucks depart from Tobyhanna. Later that day they filed into the Air Base at Fort Dix and deposited their cargoes of men and equipment "out in the woods."

For the next two and a half months preparations were made for the trip overseas. Inspection followed inspection -- all kinds of inspections -- clothing, armament, boxes and personnel. Physical hardening was stressed and two or three days a week saw us strung out along the roads leading from Ft Dix to New

Egypt or Crookstown. We had gas attacks and simulated attacks from the air. Three times we bivouacked for the night nearby and fought off myriads of mosquitoes and no place are they as big as at good old Fort Dix, New Jersey.

When the men weren't hiking, exercising, working on details or firing, they were building boxes, and high credit was theirs, for they built the best boxes the inspectors had ever seen.

The T/O was finally arranged after long and tedious hours of work on the part of the orderly room staff and Lt Trout. And by the end of July the group was ready to leave for Camp Kilmer and the long-awaited boat ride.



After two weeks at Kilmer the group found itself on board a ship called the Athlone Castle and headed for the ETO. Arriving in Liverpool late in the afternoon and a night's ride brought the group and its components to Kings Cliffe, Northants, England. Thus, after a year in the ETO the C.O., now Captain Trout, finds his men in the jobs as pictured on the following pages.



1029th Signal Company

Although one of the smallest units on the base, the Signal Company plays a major role in making the entire station a coordinated, working machine. For to it falls the task of establishing and maintaining communication facilities on the station. It is a big job and one that never ceases; a majority of the sections work on a 24-hour schedule. As a working unit the company can really be broken down into two parts -- the operations section and the supply and repair sections.

The operations section includes headquarters section, telephone and teletype, radio and message center sections. These are the sections that actually operate the many agencies of signal communication. Here are found the radio switchboard and teletype operators, the signal center and cryptographic clerks. The majority of these sections can be found at work any time of the day or night. The task of getting the messages through never really ends.

In the supply and repair sections are found the storage and issue sections, radio repair (fixed) and radio repair (mobile) and the T&T repair section. Actually, the storage and issue and T&T repair section are the only ones of the group that operate as planned. Radio repair work, both fixed and mobile, has not been available to the extent as fixed in the T/O. So this section has worked in conjunction with the T&T repair section, and has also aided other sections, such as the radio section in its technical difficulties.

That roughly is the manner in which the company breaks down, but it is by no means a stable setup. To begin with, the company T/O provided for far more radio repair and radar men than there has been work for on a Fighter station. At the same time, more operational work appeared than there were men provided for on the T/O. Thus, a shifting and reshuffling process took place, which found several

technically trained men being placed in operations sections. Much credit belongs to these latter men who have settled into their new assignments without a grumble.

With Captain Gordon W Trout as Commanding Officer and Lt Kenneth H Slater as Adjutant and Supply Officer, the company has totaled around 50 men since being split in half about a year ago. The Company resides in Area 1 in what is probably the neatest area on the base. The men have put in a lot of work hauling crushed rock and cement blocks to fill in holes and lay sidewalks.

In the VIII Air Force Bond Drive, the Signal Company soared to over 400% in total sales, leading the Command on a percentage basis for a single unit. Also the Company is proud of the fact that it leads the base in insurance allotments per man.

Although hurt by lack of manpower the Signal Company has put out a strong team in all sports played on the base. In baseball, basketball and volleyball they have been among the leaders. Two men, Cpl Van Saun and Pfc Doyle, were regulars on the station baseball team and the former was also center on the basketball team that reached Command finals in '43.



Two of the Company's personnel, Sgt Vogt and Pfc Armbruster have charge of the station Hobby Shop and Photo Lab. T/Sgt Raymond Lindeke works as station projectionist in the station theatre. Captain Trout is Radio Instructor in the Station's G.I. College.

Taken as a whole, the Signal Company has done a capable job on the base and has never failed to take a leading part in all activities.

(The following is a group picture of 28 members of the 1029th Signal Company, taken in about 1944; the back of the photo identifies each individual. This photo comes from the personal collection of the late T/5 Arthur J. Montemayor, who joined the unit in Tobyhanna in January, 1943 and served in the company until its disbanding in April, 1945)

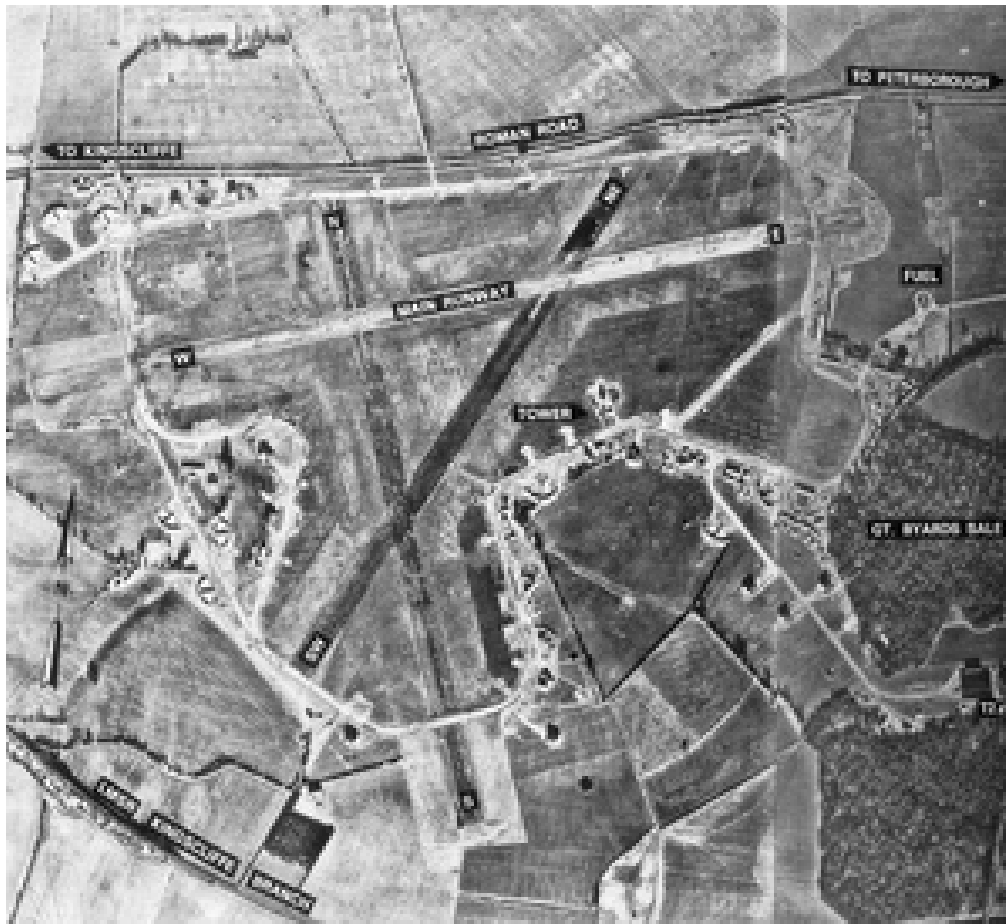


From Left To Right

1st Row - LEROY LEMKE - CLEVELAND, O. (THE FINGER)
 JAMES MURPHY - LANE LYNN, PA. (STAR GREAT LAKER)
 JOE FISHMAN - CHICAGO, ILL. (BUSINESS EXECUTIVE)
 ME } RAY NORMAN - CHESTER, IND. (SENNER'S BOY)
 RAY LINDEKE - SEATTLE, WASH. (THE VIRGIN)
 WM. BROWNING - RICHMOND, VA. (FINGERHUNTER)
 JOHN BURKE - CASTLETON, VT. (THAT G--D--N IRISHMAN)
 GEO. WALEGA - ROXBURY, MASS. (THE NOLE)
 2d. Row - DICK FREEMAN - BURNWELL, ALA. (GOTTA HAVE ONE IN THIS WORLD)
 MARTIN FLETCHER - CHARLOTTE, N.C.
 GARRAH HELMS - CHARLOTTE, N.C. (S-2 - INTELLIGENCE)
 JOHN MICHE - THE DALLES, ORE. (TANNOY)
 CAPT C.W. TROUT - INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
 YACE MERION - TAMPA, FLA. (TOP DAZ)
 JAMES DOYLE - ST. LOUIS, MO. (SLICK HAT FROM MO.)
 MC HANBROUGH - HALL, TENN. (THE BOSS)
 FLENNY ROSE - ST. LOUIS, MO. (HAT FROM MO.)
 GEORGE HYZDA - MT. CARMEL, PA.
 3d Row - JOHN SENNER - DETROIT, MICH. (KNOBBY)
 WALTER SMOOT - FAIRMONT, W. VA.
 DICK VAN SAUN - HAWTHORNE, N.J. (HE'S HAD IT)
 GILFORD COX - AMARILLO, TEX.
 WM. BLUMHARTZ - CHICAGO, ILL. (THE GREAT STONEFACE)
 LLOYD JOHNSON - SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF. (SNAPPER)
 RUDOLPH BECK - MIDWEST, TEX.
 GORDON HURTEL - LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (CHARLIE ATLAS JR.)
 NICK SIGNORELLI - PITTSBURGH, PA. (THE HOME-WRECKER)

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RAF Kings Cliffe Airfield – 16 January 1947

WIRE SECTION

Without the T&T repair section, better known as the wire crew, all means of electrical communication would be quite helpless. The members of the wire crew are real trouble shooters. They not only maintain existing means of communication, but are ever tackling new ideas and new projects to make communication still more effective.

Throughout the base there is great physical evidence of what this section has accomplished. When arriving a year ago, we found existing wire circuits buried underground. But that was all. From these existing circuits, some of which have been replaced with new wire and cable, other circuits have been run. In all, the section has strung 52 miles of field wire that actually exists at the present time.

Phones have been installed wherever needed and at the present time close to 150 are now in use. Because there is a constant shifting of offices and personnel about the base, the task of moving phones to new locations never ends. Records show an average of one phone being moved every three days. Phones naturally take a beating so there is constant repair work and exchanging of instruments to be accomplished. Damage occurs, which entails further maintenance work to keep the phones in working order.

The wire section is, and has just cause, to be proud of the low visibility landing lights system installed last spring. Fifty-seven lights were installed under great difficulties. For one thing, 2 ½ miles of cable had to be buried; of this 2 miles were buried in 2 days. This was fast work when one considers runways had to be buried under. Then the lights presented problems. To be effective they had to be installed on a perfect level. The ground was far from level along the ends of the runways so that many lights had to be placed on the top of poles. So much did the ground fluctuate that the poles were buried to different levels to maintain a uniformity. But the lights were glowing on the specified date, and have been a great help to the flyers.

Cpl Johnson, totally unfamiliar with such work, successfully supervised the work. Of invaluable assistance were Cpls Van Saun and Beck, Pfc's Neff and Sawyer of the Signal Company and Cpl Smith of the Station Complement. Many of the other members of the company assisted during their spare hours.

Operations



T/5 th Beck	T/5 th Smoot	1 st Sgt Merkin
Pfc Heiferling	T/Sgt Bield	T/5 th Fishman
T/5 th Van Saun	T/5 th Freeman	T/Sgt Lindeke
S/Sgt Signorelli	Pfc Foy	T/5 th Montemayor
T/5 th Rose	Pfc Doyle	T/4 th Shinkus
Pvt Helms	T/5 th Burke	Pfc Kosmatke
T/4 th Lehrke	S/Sgt Benner	T/5 th Walecka
Sgt Robertson	T/5 th Phillips	T/5 th Denby
T/5 th Johnson	Cpl Sawyer	Capt. Trout

1029th's Area #2



Area #2 is an area in which Captain Trout and his men may be justly proud. The men have spent many hours of their own time in de-mudding this section. Laying concrete blocks for sidewalks and crushed rock for driveways all has helped to make it livable for the men. It ranks among the tops for cleanliness and neatness.

Teletype Repair



Sgt Lehrke and Pfc Grace comprise this section in its entirety, but they are perpetually busy running between the weather station, operations room and Signal Center with their black kit of tools, caring for and pampering the teleprinter machines to be found in those offices. Theirs is a very specialized and technical job, requiring months of schooling and training both in the States and overseas.

Teleprinters are super sensitive mechanisms operating on coordinated impulses. They require constant attention to keep them in proper working order. Fluctuation of power, faulty lines and numerous other unforeseen difficulties make the job doubly hard. But Sgt Lehrke and Pfc Grace with their little black kits of magic keep the machines in good operating condition and the operators always get their messages through.

(Illegible description follows of another group)



Telephone

T/5th Beck installed the main frame of the station's switchboard hookup. At present there are 180 cable terminations and 176 switchboard terminations. It adds up to more than that in a good job well done.



T/5th Johnson is lineman and chief trouble shooter for the company. He and his men are out daily tracing faulty connections and repairing wind rocked lines.

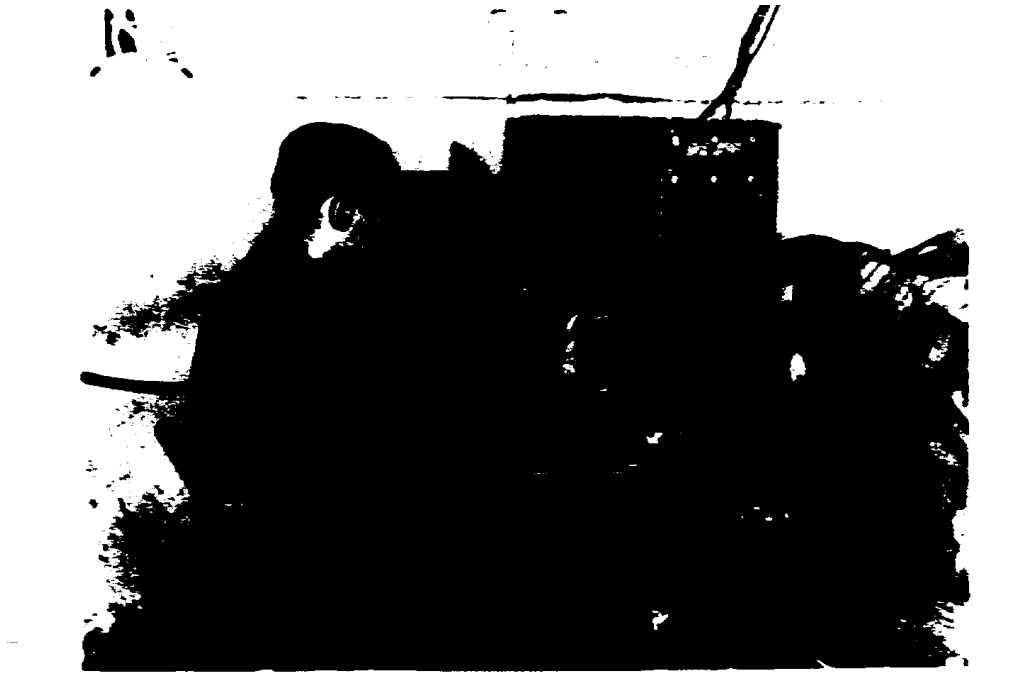


The voice that says "Number please?" when one picks up the phone, belongs usually to one of the signal men. This is one of the company's biggest and also busiest sections. So much so that in this activity the company operators are aided by men from the 44th Station Complement Squadron.

Operating from switchboards (four of them) with 180 drops, the switchboard operators handle approximately 20 local calls per minute and on an average of 150 long distance or trunk calls each day. Putting a call through every 3 seconds is work and work of a very tedious sort. Not all callers use the correct procedure, or at times look up the number of the party they are calling. Others expect miracles in the way of super service. Because of this, the operator must be a man of patience, as well as quick and efficient with his mind, hands and ears.

T/5 Joe Fishman is chief operator. Under him are T/5's Phillips, Murphy and Walecka, Pfc Neff and Pvt Helms.

RADIO



Although few of the men are aware of the fact, a Radio Station was in almost constant operation for the first year that the base has been in operation. It is a unique station, for it is located underground, occupying the site of Battle Headquarters on the Air Base.

The actual radio set, an SCR 188A, is a standard one, but the antenna is an improvised device, made necessary by the underground location of the station. Technically speaking, it is a double antenna halfwave transmission line with matching stub. If you don't understand that, it is sufficient to state that it is a unique setup and one that works in a most satisfactory manner.

The station operates in a wing-to-wing standby net, a net that is set up primarily for emergency operation. If it ever occurred that all wire communication should be disabled in some way, the Radio Station would still be able to transmit messages to any corner of the UK. Because of this, we would never be completely without some means of communication, no matter how dire the situation.

T/Sgt John Biela is the chief operator, ably assisted by Sgt Shimkus and Cpt Sawyer. T/Sgt Lindeke aids in the technical situations.

Field Lights



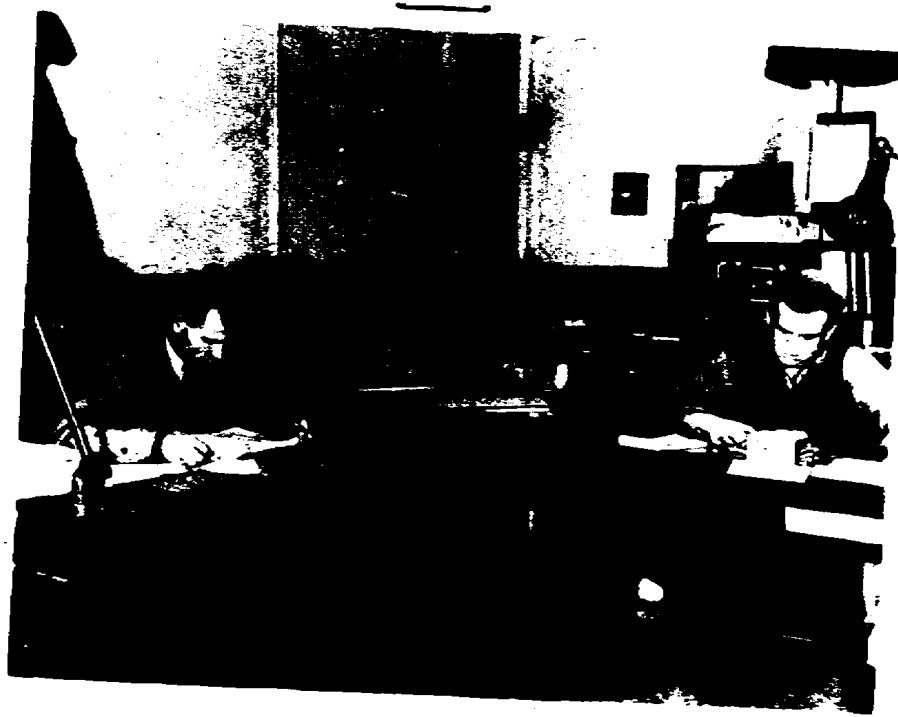
This is the control and generating points of the landing light system installed by the Signal Company under the direction of T/5th Johnson. The 52 miles of wiring supplying power to the 500 watt lights all of which is underground is supplied with power from these generators.

Landing Lights



A close-up view of T/5th Johnson inspecting the recently installed system. Maintenance of these lights is kept at a high degree of efficiency by his crew.

Signal Supply



This is one of one of the Signal Company's most important functions. Signal supply secures stock and issues all items of Signal equipment that are table of equipment (TOE) for units of this station. This also includes the issue of items for repair of signal equipment. Repair parts and assemblages for aircraft radios constitute the greater part of the turnover.

Under the guiding eye of Lt Slater, signal supply Officer, S/Sgt Fred C. Seaman of Newark, N.J. rules supreme. It is his responsibility to see that the big warehouse runs smoothly, that accurate records are kept of the many items issued to the different organizations, and that each organization receives their just amount of equipment. In this work he is ably assisted by Pfc Kosmatka, Sgt Cox and T/5 Freeman. Pfc Kosmatka keeps the records straight, and the latter named men can usually be found handling batteries, tubes, radio sets, etc. in their various phases of shipment, unpacking and distribution.

Handling such inanimate objects has not dulled the supply personnel's appreciation for worldly beauty, as one of the choicest collections of pin-up girls on the base can be found in Sgt Seaman's possession.

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From unit histories by Staff Sergeant John D. Brenner, 1029th Unit Historian.

Researched and compiled by Roger Montemayor, US Army Signal Corps from 1971 to 1976,
and son of the late Technician Fifth Grade Arthur J. Montemayor, 1029th Signal Company.

Constructed by Roger Montemayor and Leonard H. Cizewski

June 30, 2023

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