



1033rd Signal Company



**Service Group
XIIth Air Force**

Unit History

1941 – 1945

**(USA, England, North Africa, Rome-
Arno and North Apennines
Campaigns)**

Images: LEFT: Signal Corp Crossed Flag RIGHT: Air Force Service Command Distinctive Unit Insignia, XIIth Air Force Shoulder Patch

BE RETURNED TO THE ARCHIVES THE AAF HISTORICAL SECTION	516-1033-41 (12) 15-FEB-1941 OCT-1943
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1532b 1941-OCT 1943

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SUBJECT: Historical Data.

1. In accordance with letter dated 21 August, 1943, file 314.7, subject 'Historical Data', the following history of the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group is submitted.

The unit was activated as 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base, February 15, 1941, at March Field, California, from a cadre of eleven (11) enlisted men and one (1) officer, of the 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. Formed on Table of Organization number 11-237, dated December 16, 1940 and letter WDAGO-File AG-221, dated February 24, 1941....Elmer F. Gahnz, First Lieutenant, Signal Corps, Commanding.

September 29, 1941, eleven (11) privates joined organization from Signal Corps Replacement Training Center, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, per Special Orders No. 203, Headquarters, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

Second Lieutenant, John B. Winsted, Signal Corps, assigned and assumed command, per paragraph 9, Special Orders No. 31, Headquarters, Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma, dated February 4, 1942. First Lieutenant, Bernard G. Johnson, relieved command, per paragraph 10, Special Orders No. 31, Headquarters, Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma, dated February 4, 1942.

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SUBJECT: Historical Data.

Organization transferred to Savannah Army Air Base, (later Hunter Field) Savannah, Georgia, per paragraph 1, Special Orders No. 32, Headquarters, Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma, dated February 6, 1942. Departed February 6, 1942, 3:00 P.M., via railroad transportation and arrived Savannah Army Air Base, 8:00 A.M., February 8, 1942.

During period at Savannah Army Air Base, organization underwent rigid training at 8th Air Force Communications School, at Savannah, Georgia.

Organization departed from Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia, per paragraph 18, Special Orders No. 136, Headquarters, Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia, dated May 16, 1942. Assumed code number 2854-G. Departed 2:00 P.M., May 21, 1942, via rail transportation and arrived Fort Dix, Staging Area, 7:15 P.M., May 22, 1942.

Organization processed and equipped for overseas duty.

Organization moved to New York Port of Embarkation per Copy No. 107, Secret Letter, Headquarters, Fort Dix, New Jersey (370.5) Subject: Amendment No. 4, Movement Orders, Shipment....2854-G, dated May 23, 1942. Departed via rail transportation, 11:00 A.M., June 30, 1942.

Departed from New York Port of Embarkation aboard United States Army Transport Argentina, 5:00 A.M., July 1, 1942.

Arrived Holy Loch Harbor, Scotland, 8:00 A.M., July 12, 1942 and disembarked 10:00 A.M., July 14, 1942, per paragraph 2, Special Orders No. 12, Headquarters, United States Army Transport Argentina, dated July 12, 1942.

Organization proceeded via rail transportation to Royal Air Force Station, Molesworth, arriving at 5:00 A.M., 15 July, 1942. The unit immediately assumed responsibility for base communications and operation of the D. F. transmitter. British personnel were immediately impressed by our ability to function as a well coordinated unit. Second Lieutenant, Robert J. Kemmer assigned and joined 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base, 15 September, 1942, per paragraph 2, Special Orders No. 85, Headquarters, 8th Air Force, dated September 9, 1942. First Lieutenant, John B. Winsted transferred to Headquarters, European Theater Operations, United States Army, 17 September, 1942, per paragraph 1, Special Orders No. 92, Headquarters, 8th Air Force, dated 12 September, 1942. Second Lieutenant, Robert J. Kemmer assumed command.

Organization redesignated as 33rd Signal Company, Service Group, per Cablegram, European Theater Operations, United States Army, dated 10 September, 1942.

Unit transferred to Royal Air Force Station, Podington, per Secret Order, 37th Service Group and carried on base signal communication, but on a greatly reduced basis as compared with the previous operational station.

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Organization consisting of thirty-two (32) Enlisted Men and one (1) Officer departed via motor transportation, 2200 hours, 6 December, 1942 enroute to Railway Station, Wellingborough, England. On 7 December at 0025 hours proceeded via rail transportation to Port of Embarkation, Liverpool, arriving at 0800 hours. Organization boarded British Army Transport, Empress of Canada (P-9), at 1000 hours. The convoy departed from Liverpool, England at 1400 hours on 11 December, 1942 for an unknown destination.

The voyage was uneventful and the trip was safely concluded at 0900 hours, 20 December, 1942, when the convoy docked at Mers El Kebir, Algeria.

Debarkation was not accomplished until the 24 December, 1942 and the organization proceeded via motor transportation to La Senia Air Base where they were attached to the 72nd Signal Company, Service Group. Base communications were extremely heavy and the unit's previous operational experience in the United Kingdom proved beneficial toward clearing up communication and supply difficulties.

The first additional personnel to bring the organization to Company strength began to arrive on 31 January, 1943, when four (4) Enlisted Men were assigned per paragraph 3, Special Orders No. 28, Headquarters, 2nd Service Area Command from 431st Signal Construction Battalion (Avn) and one (1) Enlisted Man assigned per paragraph 8, Special Orders No. 11, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command. Total personnel at the end of the month consisted of one Officer and thirty-six (36) Enlisted Men.

February was an eventful month and morale of enlisted personnel was excellent as the long awaited ratings were finally authorized. Eight (8) Enlisted Men were assigned from the 431st Signal Construction Battalion (Avn) per paragraph 5, Special Orders No. 34, Headquarters, 2nd Service Area Command and placed on detached service to Cryptographic School, XII Air Force Service Command for ten (10) days. The change affected by combining personnel of the 72nd Signal Company, Service Group and 33rd Signal Company, Service Group resulted in the transfer of seventeen (17) enlisted men and First Lieutenant, Frederick (NMI) Herlihy who became Commanding Officer per paragraph 5, Special Orders No. 51, dated 22 February, 1942. Second Lieutenant, Robert J. Kemmer was relieved of command and appointed Signal Property Officer to take charge of the Signal Depot. The balance of the 72nd Signal Company, Service Group enlisted personnel were attached for rations and quarters pending receipt of movement orders. At this time base communication difficulties were definitely improved, but the Signal Depot presented quite a problem and required hard work and long hours of duty with limited personnel to affect improvement.

Two (2) enlisted men were transferred from the 72nd Signal Company, Service Group, 1 March, 1943, per paragraph 2, Special Orders No. 58. Two (2) enlisted men were transferred to the 72nd Signal Company, Service Group per paragraph 3, Special Orders No. 58. Twenty-three (23) enlisted men of 72nd Signal Company, Service Group relieved from attached on 2 March, 1943.

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Thirteen (13) enlisted men attached for rations, duty and quarters 13 March and one (1) enlisted man 17 March, per Verbal Orders, Northwest African Air Force, from Northwest African Air Force Replacement Center. S/Sgt. Frank J. Schmidt appointed Warrant Officer, per paragraph 3, Special Orders No. 20, Headquarters, Northwest African Air Force, dated 11 March, 1943 to fill Table of Organization vacancy in supply and function as depot Storage and Issue Officer. Second Lieutenant, Robert J. Kemmer appointed First Lieutenant per Letter, Headquarters, North African Theater Operations, United States Army, dated 22 February, 1943. First Lieutenant, Richard C. Mason and fifteen (15) enlisted men of the 437th Signal Construction Battalion (Avn) were attached for duty and rations per Verbal Orders, Signal Section, Northwest African Air Force Service Command, dated 21 March, 1943. Lieutenant Mason and his men went to work immediately in the capacity of shipping and receiving in the signal depot where a great deal of hard work was accomplished.

April was not particularly eventful, but the morale was very good as the men were working hard and once again contributing a worthwhile portion to the war effort. One enlisted man joined the organization on 23 March, per paragraph 7, Special Orders No. 5, Headquarters, Northwest African Air Force Replacement Center. Lieutenant Mason and fifteen (15) enlisted men relieved from attachment. Company strength at end of month was now three (3) officers, seventy-seven (77) enlisted men and sixteen (16) enlisted men attached.

First Sergeant, John W. Young was discharged on 3 May, 1943, to accept commission of Second Lieutenant, per paragraph 2, Special Orders No. 81, dated 27 April, 1943, Headquarters, North African Theater Operations, United States Army.

Three (3) enlisted men were transferred from the organization, one (1) on 1 May, per paragraph 3, Special Orders No. 41, dated 30 April, 1943, Headquarters, II Air Service Area Command, one (1) on May 9, per paragraph 3, Special Orders No. 90, dated 6 May, 1943, Headquarters, Air Force General Depot No. 1, and the third on 14 May, per paragraph 5, Special Orders No. 97, dated 13 May, 1943. Second Lieutenant, John W. Young was relieved from attached and assigned to the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group per paragraph 5, Special Orders No. 102, dated 17 May, 1943. Headquarters, Air Force General Depot No. 1. 33rd Signal Company, Service Group was redesignated as the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group per authority contained in W.D. Letter AF320.2, dated February 14th 1943. On May 8, 1943, the 21st Signal Company, Service Group was attached for rations and quarters. Company strength at end of month consisted of four (4) officers, seventy-five (75) enlisted men assigned and twenty (20) enlisted men attached. Second Lieutenant, John W. Young relieved from assignment to the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group and assigned to 1056th Signal Company, Service Group per paragraph 3, Special Orders No. 121, dated 5 June, 1943, Headquarters, Air Force General Depot No. 1. Captain Otto J. Novak relieved from further duty and assignment with the 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) and assigned as Commanding Officer, 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group per paragraph No. 11, Special Orders No. 139, dated 3 June, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command.

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Captain Frederick Herlihy relieved from further duty and assignment with the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group and transferred to the 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per paragraph 18, Special Orders No. 140, dated 11 June, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command.

First Lieutenant, Roy E.M. Reid assigned to this organization per paragraph 5, Special Orders No. 142, dated 6 June, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command. Lieutenant Reid immediately assumed the duties of Radio Officer, a position for which he is well qualified as he had experience as Communications Officer of the 320th Bomb Group and was well acquainted with Air borne radio problems. Total strength of Company at end of month was four (4) officers, eighty-two (82) enlisted men assigned and eleven (11) attached.

Second Lieutenant, Maurice J. Hoff assigned and joined 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group 3 July, per paragraph 4, Special Orders No. 163 dated 27 June, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command. Lieutenant Hoff was assigned to duty at the Signal Depot to gain experience in the supply functions. Two (2) enlisted men were transferred from the organization who were over age. One (1) on the 4th July, 1943, per paragraph 12, Special Orders No. 160 dated 24 June, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command and the other on 16 July, 1943, per paragraph 34, Special Orders No. 177, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command dated 11 July, 1943. Total Company strength at end of month was five (5) officers, seventy-eight (78) enlisted men assigned and one (1) enlisted man attached.

Lieutenant Kemmer relieved from assignment to the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group and assigned to 1023rd Signal Company, Service Group on August 2, 1943, per paragraph 17, Special Orders No. 192, dated 26 July, 1943. Lieutenant Hoff was relieved from further duty and assignment to this unit and transferred to 37th Service Group, per paragraph 14, Special Orders No. 195, dated 29 July, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command. Second Lieutenant, John C. Bleazey assigned and joined 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group per paragraph 1, Special Orders No. 206, dated 9 August, 1943. Lieutenant Bleazey immediately took over the Radar Repair Section and began organizing preventative maintenance inspections.

Second Lieutenant Joseph (NMI) Poticny, Second Lieutenant, George W. Long and Second Lieutenant, James I. Huston assigned to the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group per paragraph 5, 6 and 7 respectively, Special Orders No. 215, dated 18 August, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command. Lieutenant Long placed on detached service to 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) by same orders. These officers are all compliment of the Radar Repair Section.

Nine (9) enlisted men all of whom are Radar trained, joined the organization during the month. Seven (7) of these men were transferred per paragraph 14, Special Orders No. 216, dated 19 August, 1943,

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Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command, and two (2) per paragraph 26, Special Orders No. 195, dated 10 August, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command.

CONSECUTIVE PROSE

As previously recorded in the chronological list of events, the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group was formed at March Field, California in February of 1941 from a cadre of eleven (11) enlisted men and one (1) officer. The unit was activated as the '33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base' before the Service Group units had been adopted by the Air Corps. The unit was designated as a tactical unit and its general function was as a communications team for operational Air Bases. Obviously, from its name designation, the unit was designed to serve the Air Corps even though the personnel were Signal Corps men.

Near the end of March, just about a month and a half after the organization's formation, the unit was transferred to Oklahoma City Air Base (later Will Rogers Field), some ten (10) miles southwest of the city of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The original cadre contained mostly men whose Signal Corps experience was in the field of wire communication, although one man had had limited experience operating in a War Department radio station at March Field. Incidentally, this same man is with the organization still, and is now Chief Radio Operator of a much expanded radio operations section. The unit was assigned the job of operating the Signal Supply Section at Will Rogers Field. Also a few of the men operated the base's telephone exchange and teletype room. Due to the small size of the unit, the men were kept quite busy maintaining all these duties until the middle of September when thirteen (13) newly trained men were assigned to the unit from the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. The organization now appeared to be a real organization instead of a detachment as it had previously appeared. The new men represented a cross-section of all the types of training available at the training center; supply men, message center men, radio operators and telephone operators. A definite shortage still stood in the radio repair, teletype operation and teletype maintenance sections. Of course the Platoon's Table of Organization was limited in many sections although all were represented. Need for the shortages was not great at Will Rogers, however.

The unit thus proceeded until the first of 1942 when five men joined the Platoon. Two (2) of these five (5) had come down from Fort Monmouth also, but the other three were recruits, having not even the advantage of the army training afforded by a 'boot camp'. At the entry of these new men, a training schedule was set up by the Commander, Lieutenant Bernard G. Johnson, in order to train these new men and to further the training of the rest of the men. This training was mainly concerned with the technical aspects of message center, radio operating procedure, radio operating and telephone maintenance. A barracks room was set aside and a code practice unit was installed for the radio operators. This same room furnished a classroom for the classes in message center procedure.

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SUBJECT: Historical Data.

A class was started to study the fundamentals of electricity, which all members of the other classes were obliged to attend. Shortly previous to this, the unit had been relieved of the responsibility of the signal supply on the base and the personnel was still kept busy by the training schedule. Numerous field problems were engaged in by both the radio and telephone sections. These problems served a valuable purpose in that they showed members of the organization how badly in need of training they actually were, notwithstanding the fact that they were training in themselves.

Orders were received shortly before the first of February to move the unit and on February 6, 1943, the unit boarded the train, destination definitely unknown. It was believed by the majority of the men that a staging area was the next stop although none of them had ever, as yet, even heard the expression. They were not too far off although it was to be a space of several months until an overseas trip would be their 'fate'. As it happened, the organization detrained at Savannah Air Base (later Hunter Field), which is a few miles south of Savannah, Georgia. The trip from Oklahoma was made in an extremely 'roundabout' manner, the train going in a wide circle north through Kansas and Missouri and turning back south to go through the big Smokies and on into Georgia. This, of course, probably followed the usual security plans for a large scale troop movement by train. It would be well to mention at this time that the move was quite a large one, since an entire Service Group (then known as an Air Base Group), with all its ground equipment and personnel was moved on the same train. The 33rd was then attached to the 37th Air Base Group which was mentioned above and naturally necessitated the 33rd's move with them. The organization had become attached to this group on its arrival at Will Rogers Field. Second Lieutenant, John B. Winsted replaced Lieutenant Bernard G. Johnson as Commanding Officer just previous to our departure from Will Rogers Field.

Since the base at Savannah was quite well stocked with signal personnel at the time of the arrival of the 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base, there was really not a lot for the unit to do and a training program was the only answer in keeping the men busy. A training schedule was soon set up although it took on quite a different form than the one used at Will Rogers Field. Many members were sent to a civilian school in town to study radio operating, typing, teleprinter operation and repair and some radio maintenance. The school proved a fair basis for further training in these various but really not a lot more than a basic. Its teaching did not include work with actual issue equipment and it is obvious that without this, the fundamentals could only be taught and learned. The radio operations and maintenance sections received some little experience during this period when the 8th Air Force Service Command prescribed a practice radio net to be set up in the vicinity for the specific purpose of training. About five stations were included in the net and covered an area some seventy (70) miles in diameter. The section operated an SCR-188 Radio Set at the air base following an eighteen hour schedule. The repair section, which then consisted of three (3) men, finally got a chance to actually work on equipment that they had studied some months before and found that they were definitely getting rusty on their knowledge of this particular set. Not a lot of maintenance was required, however.

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On May 21, 1942, special orders moved the 37th Air Base Group, including the 33rd Signal Platoon, from Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia to Fort Dix, New Jersey, which proved to be the long-awaited staging area. The trip was uneventful and seemed to be done in a bit more efficient manner than the one previous since the route lay in an almost straight northerly direction. Upon the unit's arrival a block of tents in the staging bivouac area was assigned to the organization. The tents proved rather a new experience to most of the men with the exception of the few 'old army' men the unit possessed. A month and a half was spent in this place with a rather long series of inoculations and shots being given to say nothing of the long periods of close-order drill and callisthenics given daily. The dust of Fort Dix proved to be just as dry as we later found it in North Africa. The toughening process finally came to an end on June 30th and the unit took the train to Hoboken and ferried over to Brooklyn. In Brooklyn the 33rd Signal Platoon went aboard the transport steamship Argentina and sailed the next morning at dawn. This was the unit's last sight of American soil to this date. It was natural that the men should have quite a number of mixed feelings; those being mainly of regret, but a lot of them of eager anticipation and a good bit of conjecture as to their next port of call. This port proved rather a pleasant surprise. On the evening of the eleventh day at sea the Irish coast was sighted and early the next morning the convoy was steaming up between the green-clad banks skirting the Clyde estuary. The ships dropped anchor in the harbor of Holy Loch, near Greenock, a few miles below Glasgow, Scotland. After the usual few days of quarantine accompanied by the usual amount of anxiety to 'get going', the 33rd was finally debarked and put aboard a train. The fourteen (14) hour ride that took the unit to its next station was made almost totally in daylight since the nights in England at that time of year are quite short. This afforded the men an excellent opportunity to see the country as the train passed through it.

The next few weeks proved the busiest the unit had experienced and very likely, the most profitable ones it had seen up to that time. The station was Molesworth Aerodrome, an R.A.F. Station in Northamptonshire county in England. The entire organization was immediately put to work at various signal duties. The British equipment and procedures used were slightly confusing at first, but they soon became quite as commonplace as our own had been. The operations building, which also housed the Signals Office, cryptographic section and the telephone exchange was virtually the unit's 'place of business'. Here all the unit, with the exception of three men, was kept busy. Telephone operators, teleprinter operators, radio operators and message center men worked alongside the congenial Royal Air Force men to do a very excellent job of communications work. A man was assigned to act as clerk for the Signal Officer who happened to be the 33rd's Commander and this same man's ingenuity proved valuable to the operations section of the aerodrome. This man was responsible for the invention of a new system of handling files used in the drome's briefing room. The system, although simple, saved a great deal of time. For the two (2) months the unit functioned in this manner three (3) men were assigned to the Direction Finder's Transmitter, a few miles away from the base and obtained valuable

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experience in the maintenance of British radio equipment. Incidentally, these three (3) men were the only repairmen the unit had at the time. The transmitters that these men supervised were operated from a small building at the base.

It might be pointed out that the Unit's morale, as a whole, was at a very high level during this period, obviously due to the fact that the men actually had a job to do that would keep them busy and give them a feeling of responsibility unknown to them as yet in their army careers.

The job done at Molesworth was the start of a fine career for the unit. As yet, however, the unit was not 'recognized' by the powers that were and the men naturally took exception to the fact that they had done a good job but ratings were not forthcoming. This was probably the only real 'gripe' the men had. Then came a move which forbode no particularly good outlook for the unit's future.

On September 17, 1942, the organization moved with the 37th Air Base Group to Podington Aerodrome, another Royal Air Force station, twenty-odd miles from Molesworth. The 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base now changed its designation to the 33rd Signal Company, Service Group. The Platoon had been abolished and the Air Base Group also but the 33rd still had thirty-two (32) enlisted men and one (1) officer. A new Table of Organization was anticipated and had been for some weeks prior to the move from Molesworth but it was not to be during the unit's stay in England. The next two and one-half months marked, probably, the darkest period the unit has experienced so far. No signal work was to be done with the exception of one teletype machine to be operated and a small message center to handle the small amount of traffic coming in and going out on the one machine. This proved to be quite a letdown for the men who were used to being kept at a rather lively pace for at least eight hours every day and who now were almost at a loss to find something to do. The 37th Service Group was not operating at this field and its ground crews were also idle. The station was supposed to be another staging area, but very little actual troop processing took place here as far as the 33rd was concerned. The fault most certainly did not lie with the Commander since he made every effort to keep the men occupied in some sort of useful work. The work was not signal work, however, and the men began to be rather depressed. Morale took its lowest plunge in the unit's history. A few futile attempts at drill and callisthenics were made and a sort of training schedule was set up but the men's hearts just weren't in it. The future looked gloomy. The men knew that another boat ride was in the offing and God knew what lay in store for them.

The one bright light in this dreary picture was the work done by the Company's Supply Section. A close check was made of the organizational equipment on hand and the shortages were completely filled. Luck and a lot of hard work did the job, however, and the unit left Podington with a full complement of organizational equipment. This included transportation and signal equipment also. Unfortunately, the transportation did not reach us at our next station but everything else did. Careful packing and crating was done by the section and nothing was broken or damaged in the least en route.

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SUBJECT: Historical Data.

On December 6, 1942, the unit left Podington (with very few regrets) and entrained for Liverpool. At Liverpool, the SS Empress Of Canada was waiting and the 33rd Signal Company, Service Group boarded her. She sailed within the next few days and again their destination was heavily veiled in a cloak of mystery. The southward journey across a wintry Atlantic was rather eventful. The sea was extremely rough and the better part of the troops aboard were seasick most of the journey. No enemy action was encountered during the entire trip. The men complained strongly about the food received during the trip and had excellent reason to. Of course the seasickness created a great deal of nausea at the sight of the food, but it was believed that the food would have nauseated a completely well person on dry land. The meat, when served, tasted as if it had been definitely 'doctored' and the bread was never too fresh. The coffee was definitely travelling under an assumed name (and flavor).

Fortunately, the trip finally dragged to a conclusion and the ship rode smoothly through the straits of Gibraltar and into the Mediterranean. A day later the ship docked at Mers El Kebir, a port just west of Oran harbor in Algeria, French North Africa. The warm weather and sun during the first two (2) days after docking were enjoyable but the enjoyment was quite heavily stifled when, on the third day in port, the day of the unit's debarkation, the seasonal rains began to pour down. At this point the unit had no attachment and no assignment. It was virtually a lost outfit. Lieutenant Robert J. Kemner, the unit's Commander was at pretty much of a loss as to know what to do. He contacted, finally, Lieutenant Frederick Herlihy, who was then Commander of the 72nd Signal Company, Service Group at La Senia Air Base and the Lieutenant arranged transportation for the extremely wet and bedraggled unit. The unit went to La Senia where it is at present. The arrival of the 33rd proved to be a great relief for Lieutenant (now Captain) Herlihy's much-overworked unit. There were few in any other signal men in the vicinity and the men of the organization were immediately put to work, functioning as base communications personnel. Together with the 72nd, the 33rd made up just about the right number of men required to do the communications work required. All radio operators were given work as well as all teleprinter operators, but the most needed personnel at the time of the 33rd's arrival were men having telephone operating and switchboard maintenance experience. The unit had these men and put them to a very good use at the base switchboard, then known as 'Blarney', now 'Gypsy Lee'. Toward the end of January, 1943, five (5) men were assigned to the unit, making a total of thirty-seven (37) men in the organization. The men were obtained on authority of a new Table of Organization issued the unit shortly before. The long-awaited ratings were finally available to the men and the future took on a much brighter aspect than it had for several months. Morale was as high or possibly higher than it had ever been before. On the fifth of February, eight (8) new men joined the unit, only to be sent to the XII Air Force Service Command cryptographic school for a ten-day course.

On February 8, 1943 a long list of promotions was posted on the company's bulletin board and there was jubilation amongst most of the men.

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However, there were a few who were remembered by the Commanding Officer as having been 'naughty' and their expected promotions were not forthcoming. On February 14, 1943 another list was published and another bunch of men made happy. It was an altogether bright time for the men. As in Molesworth the men were up to their ears in work and really liking it and the ratings were coming out to those who were showing that they were worth it.

The radio maintenance section had, probably, the least to do at this time. The teletype operations and maintenance sections were very busy and hampered with a lack of equipment and spares and inferior lines. With the rain constantly falling, the lines were just as constantly going out. The telephone men were not so vitally concerned with the wet lines since their equipment didn't need quite so perfect a line as did the teletypes. Twenty-four (24) hours a day the teletype men were busy, shooting trouble (even out on the lines themselves) and trying to maintain the machines with a bare minimum of tools and spare parts available. They did a commendable job and one man in particular, of the 33rd Signal Company, Service Group did a remarkable job with virtual junk. He pieced together a patch-panel out of scraps of old French aircraft and a few jacks and plugs he was able to wangle from the base signal dump. The panel, although simple, was an innovation and definitely a time-saver when time was at a premium back in those days when the enemy was much closer to this base than it is at this writing.

On February 23, the 72nd and 33rd were more or less merged to form a new and larger 33rd Signal Company, Service Group. Actually it was not a merger; the 72nd merely lost seventeen (17) of its men to the 33rd and the remaining men in the 72nd were transferred to another base. At this time, Lieutenant Frederick Herlihy took over command of the unit and Lieutenant Robert J. Kemmer was relieved of this duty. Shortly after the unit took over the working of the Base Signal Section which formed the Signal Section of Air Force General Depot No. 1. This required a large number of men, and the 33rd, with its usual versatility was able to supply the needed personnel. The repair section, radio, teletype and telephone used their training to good advantage. Their efforts were instrumental, for instance, in providing motion picture facilities for the base from equipment which had arrived in a damaged condition and previous to our arrival was considered unrepairable.

Lieutenant Kemmer was assigned the job of Depot Signal Supply Officer which he carried on until his transfer to another Signal Company some weeks ago. The 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group (having been redesignated), to this date, is operating the Signal Supply Section in a very efficient manner under the direction of Warrant Officer Frank J. Schmidt who rose from the enlisted ranks of the organization. Incidentally, it was this man of whom we mentioned having done the fine job in the Signals Office at Molesworth back in England, and the credit for the revised briefing file goes to him.

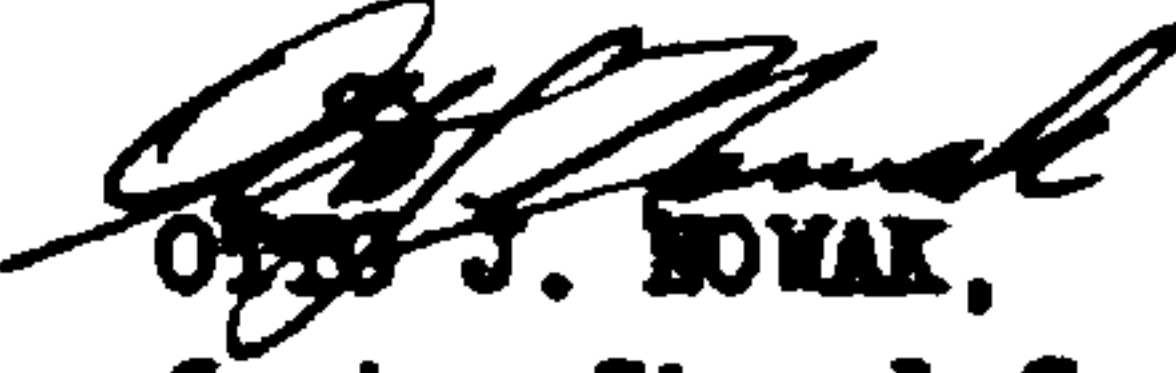
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Since the 103rd Signal Company, Service Group took over the Signal Section a large expansion has taken place in its facilities. A complete radio repair section has been assembled being run by the repair section of the organization. The section now comprises nine (9) men. Also added to the Signal Section is a radar maintenance group headed by Lieutenant John C. Bleazey. The radar men service units in the vicinity as well as equipment brought in to them from transient organizations.

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OTTO J. NOWAK,
Capt., Signal Corps
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS

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1033rd Signal Company, Service Group
A. P. O. 528 U. S. Army

Company History 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group, A. P. O.
528, U. S. Army. Month of October, 1943.

October 1

This was a typical first of the month. A few of the men called by the Orderly Room to deposit much more money in Soldier's Savings than what their pay amounted to. A few others were observed slyly asking their buddies for a loan until pay day. Such is the result of games of chance in a soldier's life. Private Cyrus W. Byrne, ASN 32328720, Private Ivon H. Fowler, ASN 13102592, Private Frederick E. Lewis, ASN 33095287, Private John Seward, ASN 36055633, and Private Littleton D. Stewart, ASN 34108005, were promoted to the grade of Private First Class per Company Order Number 18, dated 1 October, 1943.

October 2

Today we played a return engagement with the French Basketball aggregation. The few days of practice did wonders for our team. We turned the tables on our opponents, and trounced them much worse than they did us in the first game played the week before. Lieutenant Huston was our best scoring threat, while Sergeants Sewell, Semrinec, and Wallace showed up well on defense.

October 3

Nothing of particular interest to report. Routine duties were carried out. Quite a number of our men enjoyed a good show at the Base Theater. The picture was "Nice Girl" with Deanna Durbin.

October 4

The new Base Post Exchange opened today. The men were a bit disgruntled because they lost a weeks rations between the time our Company PX was closed and the Base PX opened. The Officers of the Base enjoyed a dance at the Officer's Club. Lieutenant Long was Officer of the Day.

October 5

Nothing of importance to report. Regular duties were carried out in the usual efficient manner. Quite a number of the men "sweated out" the ice cream line at the Red Cross. The Daily Bulletin carried the information that "all movies at the Base Theater will, in the future, begin at 1930 hours".

October 6

First Lieutenant Kenneth A. Wright, ASN 0-430526, was released from Detached Service, and returned to Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command per Paragraph Number 25, Special Order Number 252, dated 24 September, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command. Warrant Officer Frank J. Schmidt, of our Company was Administrative Officer of the Day.

October 7

Today we sent Technical Sergeant Roy D. Baker to the 151st Station Hospital. Roy met with a peculiar accident. He was on his way back to the Supply Depot after eating "chow". As he was walking down the steps in front of the barracks his feet slipped from under him, and he hit his head a terrific blow on the pavement. He was rushed to the dispensary. He was rendered first aid, and

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October 7 con't.

dismissed, but he was noticeably hurt so Technical Sergeant Semrinec took him to the dispensary. This time they gave Roy a more thorough examination which resulted in their rushing him to the 151st Station Hospital. Upon x-raying Roy's head the doctors found a first degree fracture. He will be lost to our organization for a long time and maybe permanently.

October 8

There was a USO show at the Base Theater last night. The men seemed to have enjoyed it very much despite the fact there were no girls in it. The men of the Base were warned via the Daily Bulletin that cotton uniforms are still in effect and woolen OD uniforms are NOT OPTIONAL.

October 9

Nothing of importance to report. Regular duties were carried out. The "Romeos" of our company were observed getting "slicked up" for the regular Saturday night dance at the Red Cross. They tell me that Staff Sergeant Guaraldi and Technician 5th Grade Ingram really shake a wicked hip when it comes to jitterbugging.

October 10

Today was a beautiful Sunday. A large number of men enjoyed a good Church service at the Base Chapel. The service was conducted by a colored Chaplain from the 838th Engineers. There was some beautiful special music furnished by a colored quartet and soloist. "A Day at the Circus" with the Marx Brothers was shown at the Base Theater.

October 11

Nothing of importance today. There was an unusually large "mail call". The morale certainly takes a turn for the better when the men get lots of mail.

October 12

A good show was on at the Base Theater. "Gentleman Jim" starring Errol "Wolf" Flynn was the feature picture. The men who enjoy boxing certainly had an entertaining evening.

October 13

Regular duties were carried out by all departments. Technical Sergeant Baker who has been very ill as a result of a fractured skull is improved slightly. He has finally regained consciousness but is bothered with blinding headaches.

October 14

Staff Sergeant William T. Halloran of the Radar Section was taken to the 151st General Hospital. The doctors pronounced him a yellow jaundice case. His services will be lost to his Radar team for at least two or three weeks.

October 15

Our company quarters were inspected today. We were warned against having any government issue food in our personal possession. We were urged to turn over our surplus reading books to the Red Cross. The various organizations of the Base were requested to turn in a roster of their officers together with the telephone number at which they can be reached. The purpose of the information is for the new

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October 15 con't.

telephone directory for the Base which is in the process of being printed.

October 16

Captain Otto J. Nowak, O-471280, our Company Commander, sent on Detached Service for approximately five days per Paragraph Number 3, Special Order Number 36, dated 10 October, 1943. Sergeant Richard Monda, 36319209, of the Supply Depot, went on Detached Service for approximately five days per Paragraph Number 3, Special Order Number 36, dated 10 October, 1943. Master Sergeant McDonald, 37073400, head of the Radio Repair Section, went on Detached Service for approximately five days per Paragraph Number 1, Special Order Number 39, dated 13 October, 1943.

October 17

Privates First Class Gerald P. Gross, 32192797, Ivon H. Fowler, 13102592, Bernard H. Hufker, 16054134, Edward J. Holey, 36340178, and Osborne A. Whorton, 31147201, were promoted to the grade of Technician 5th Grade per Paragraph Number 5, Special Order Number 41, dated 15 October, 1943, Headquarters Oran Intransit Center. Technician 5th Grade Raymond D. Spencer, 34335848, was promoted to the grade of Technician 4th Grade per Paragraph Number 5, Special Order Number 39, dated 15 October, 1943, Headquarters Oran Intransit Center.

October 18

Captain Nowak, O-471230, Master Sergeant McDonald, 37073400, and Sergeant Monda, 36319209 returned from Detached Service to duty at 1800 hours.

October 19

Corporal Harry M. Reynolds, 32302787 was assigned and joined our organization from the 8th Replacement Depot per Paragraph Number 16, Special Order Number 239, dated 16 October, 1943. Headquarters Mediterranean Base Section. Corporal Reynolds was placed under the supervision of Technical Sergeant Mortwedt in the Radio Operations Section.

October 20

The Redesignation of Oran Intransit Center became effective as of 0001 this date. Oran Intransit Center has been officially redesignated SUB-DEPOT Number 12.

October 21

Nothing of particular interest to report. The picture "Yankee Doodle Dandy" with James Cagney, Jean Leslie, and Walter Huston, showed at the Base Theater.

October 22

2nd Lieutenant Joseph Poticny O-163829, Technical Sergeant Clyde D. Isaacks, 38158222, and Sergeant William D. Parr, 10481191, of the Radar Section, were sent on Detached Service for approximately thirty days per Paragraph Number 7, Special Order Number 46, dated 21 October, 1943, Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12.

October 23

2nd Lieutenant Whitefield W. Moretti, O-509349, was placed on Detached Service with our organization for approximately five days per Paragraph Number 13, Special Order Number 277, dated 19 October, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command. The Daily Bulletin informed

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October 23 con't.

us that the Post Exchange would be open from 0900 hours to 1200 hours Sundays and from 1300 hours to 1900 hours on Mondays. Regular hours (1100 to 1900) will be maintained on other week days.

October 24

2nd Lieutenant Whitefield E. Moretti, O-509349, was released from Detached Service with our organization and returned to his proper station. Private First Class Robert S. German, 13061256, of the Telephone Section, was taken to the 151st Station Hospital. He was reported to have had a bad case of the yellow jaundice.

October 25

Technician 5th Grade James J. Ketchel, 32095755, and Technician 5th Grade Byron L. Smith, 11045584, were transferred in grade to the 1021st Signal Company, Service Group A.P.O. 528 per Paragraph Number 7, Special Order Number 48, dated 24 October, 1943, Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12.

October 26

2nd Lieutenant John L. Beirne, O-1641977 was placed on Detached Service with this organization from the 891st Signal Company Depot (Avn) per Paragraph Number 11, Special Order Number 275, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command, dated 17 October, 1943.

October 27

Nothing of importance to report in regard to the company activities. There was a good picture at the Base Theater, "The Navy Comes Through" with Pat O'Brien and Jane Wyman.

October 28

Technician 5th Grade Charles D. Pettry, 35266479, was reduced to the grade of Private per Paragraph Number 4, Special Order Number 51, dated 27 October, 1943, Sub-Depot Number 12.

October 29

The Daily Bulletin warned all men of this base that a sweater will not be worn as an outer garment. It also urged all units to save all wooden boxes and scrap lumber for the purpose of packing equipment.

October 30

The men were notified today that beginning November 1, 1943, "G.I." laundry service would be available. This will be quite a relief to the men who have been "haggling" with the native people for nearly a year over the price and the amount of soap furnished.

October 31

The units occupying the Barracks were warned that the windows needed cleaning. This is a lovely warm Sunday and pay day. There was a good turn-out at church today. Pay day with its usual quota of debts

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October 31 con't.

payed off and accumulated.

John C. Bleazy
JOHN C. BLEAZY
2nd Lt., Sig. C.

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NO RETURNED THE ARCHIVES THE AAF HISTORICAL SECTION	FILE 516-1033-H1 SEPT-1943 FEB-1944
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1033-H1 (P. 9, 10 G)
 Sept 1943 - Feb 1944

MICROFILMED

SIG-1033-F1

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS

1033rd Signal Company, Service Group
A F Sub Depot Number 12
APO #528 U. S. Army

3 February, 1944.

SUBJECT: Historical Data.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, A. P. O. # 512, U. S. Army.
ATTENTION: Historian.

1. In accordance with letter dated 21 August, 1943, file 314.7, subject "Historical Data", the following history of the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group is submitted. Period covered is from 1 September, 1943 to 1 February, 1944.

Radar Section was further enlarged with the acquisition of four additional enlisted men, who joined the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 3 Special Order 25 dated 9 August, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

Second Lieutenant Long assigned and reported for duty in Radar Section of the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 6 Special Order 215 dated 18 August, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

First Lieutenant Wright was placed on detached service with the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group for approximately fifteen days, per Paragraph 25 Special Order 252 dated 24 September, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

Captain Nowak, Commanding Officer, was placed on detached service from this unit for approximately five days per Paragraph 3 Special Order 35 dated 10 October, 1943, Headquarters Organ Intransit Center.

Second Lieutenant Poticny and his Radar team was sent on detached service for approximately thirty days per Paragraph 7 Special Order 46 dated 21 October, 1943, Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12.

Second Lieutenant Beirne was placed on detached service with this unit from the 391st Signal Company, Depot (Arm) per Paragraph 11 Special Order 275 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 17 October, 1943.

First Lieutenant Roy E. M. Reid released from assignment to the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group and assigned to the 1032nd Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 4 Special Order 285 dated 27 October, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

Second Lieutenant George W. Long relieved from duty this organization and assigned to the 915th Signal Company, Depot (Arm) per Paragraph 4 Special Order 219 dated 2 November, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

Second Lieutenant James T. Huston relieved from duty this organization and assigned to the 1073rd Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 3 Special Order 292 dated 3 November, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

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SIG - 1032 - A1

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HEADQUARTERS
1032ND SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP
Service Center #36
APO - 520

WAB/alh

1 September 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XV Air Force, Attention: Historian.
(Through Channels.)

1. Unit History of the 1032nd Signal Company Service Group for the period 1 August to 31 August 1944 inclusive.

a. The present designation of the unit is 1032nd Signal Company, Service Group, assigned to the 38th Service Group.

b. Changes in Organization.

- (1) None.
- (2) None.
- (3) No change.

c. Strength, Commissioned and enlisted.

- (a) 2 Officers, 50 Enlisted Men.
- (b) Net Increase; 3 Enlisted Men.
- (c) Net Decrease; 2 Enlisted Men.
- (d) 2 Officers, 81 Enlisted Men.

d. Stations - Same.

e. Movements - None.

f. Campaigns - Italian - From 13 December 1943 to "Still in Progress."

g. Operations; The radio station was moved because of interference.

Two motor pool tents burned. Two men returned from Radar School. Nine more men were chosen to go home on rotation. Signal Property, Radio Supplies and Telephone equipment is being divided between this company and the 1152nd Signal Company Service Group in preparation for a separation. Several stone and wooden houses are being built in the area. Men are being trained to fill the vacancies which will result from the rotation.

h. Commanding Officers in important operations - None.

i. Losses in action - None.

j. Members who have distinguished themselves - None.

2. Enclosed is the War Diary for this unit for the period 1 August to 31 August inclusive.

William B. Buford
WILLIAM B. BUFORD,
Captain, Signal Corps,
Commanding.

1 Encl: War Diary (3cys)

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Four enlisted men from the Radar Section released to this unit and assigned to the 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 5 Special Order 68 dated 12 November, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

First Lieutenant Bierns released from detached service with this Command and returned to his own station per Paragraph 5 Special Order 69 dated 15 November, 1943, Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12.

Six enlisted men were assigned to this organization from the 319th Signal Company Wing per Paragraph 9 Special Order 306 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

Two enlisted men were assigned to this unit from the 319th Signal Company Wing per Paragraph 10 Special Order 319 dated 30 November, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

Sergeants Gover, Strifer, and Bacon were sent to Cryptographic School per Paragraph 2 Special Order 26 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12.

Second Lieutenant Bleazey and Radar team consisting of four enlisted men were sent on detached service to the 907th Signal Company Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 1 Special Order 328 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 9 December, 1943.

Second Lieutenant George E. Northup was assigned to this unit from XII Air Force Service Command per Paragraph 15 Special Order 347 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 29 December, 1943.

Staff Sergeant Clarke was sent on detached service with the 323rd Service Group per Paragraph 4 Special Order 108 Headquarters A F Sub Depot Number 12 dated 27 December, 1943.

Second Lieutenant Joseph Potigny and his five enlisted man Radar team were released from duty with this unit and assigned to the 1065th Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 10 Special Order 349 dated 31 December, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

Captain Nowak, Commanding Officer of the organization since 9 June, 1943, and four enlisted men were released and assigned to the newly activated 874th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 6 and 3 respectively Special Order 5 dated 5 January, 1944, Headquarters ASCITO.

Five enlisted men were released by this unit and assigned to the 1151st Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 3 Special Order 5 dated 5 January, 1944, Headquarters ASCITO.

Three enlisted men were released and assigned to the 1152nd Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 3 Special Order 5 dated 5 January, 1944.

Lieutenant Robert G. Mainzer was joined our unit as Company Commander per Paragraph 35 Special Order 6 dated 6 January, 1944, Headquarters ASCITO.

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S E C R E T

For the Commanding Officer:

Lawrence A. Wise
LAWRENCE A. WISE,
2nd Lt., Sig. C.
Per. Officer.

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NOT RETURNED TO THE ARCHIVES THE AAF MEDICAL DEPT	JAN-1944 SIC-1033-H1 (20)
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 JAN 1944

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SECRET
HEADQUARTERS

1033rd Signal Company, Service Group
A F Sub-Depot Number 12
APO # 528 U. S. Army

Company History 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group
A. P. O. # 528, U. S. Army. Month of January, 1944.

January 1

The Company party was a huge success. The men had a better time than they have experienced since leaving the good old English soil over a year ago. The chairman and all members of the committee are to be congratulated on having a well planned and executed program for the entire evening. There were no severe headaches today. The Red Cross Manager told us that ours was the best party which has been held in the Recreation Hall. The men went about their business as usual today, looking into the new year and hoping stronger than ever to be in the states before the year has run its course.

January 2

Sergeant James F. Gover, Sergeant Paul F. Striefer, and Technician 4th Grade Joe F. Bacon returned from Cryptographic School and were assigned to their new duties in the Crypt Section. Private First Class Harry C. Brock was sent to the 151st Station Hospital for a minor operation. We lost our first basketball game to the Supply Squadron by a score of 36-24. The boys seemed too full of New Year's turkey to play as they should. Because of our party we decided not to have turkey until January 2.

January 3

We were informed today of the fact that we are going to lose our Commanding officer and a number of enlisted personnel. Every one is wondering and guessing what men will go.

January 4

Another installment of the Signal Corps picture, "Why We Fight" was shown at the Base Theater. Our basketball team bounced back in the win column by beating the 1144th Quartermaster 35-24. Staff Sergeant Murphy was the offensive star of the game with 18 points to his credit.

January 5

Second Lieutenant Joseph Poticny, Technical Sergeants Clyde D. Isaacs and Ralph W. McIninch, Staff Sergeants William T. Halloran and Wallace E. Yohe, and Sergeant William D. Parr Jr. were released from our organization and assigned to the 1065th Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 10 Special Order 349 dated 31 December, 1943, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command. This Radar team has been with our command for some time and we are sorry to have them leave.

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January 6

Our organization is having to furnish six guards for the base. This makes it rather hard since we work "around the clock". It takes extra work for every one but the men accept it in good spirit. Our team won another basketball game. We won from the Officers team in a very heatedly contested game 27-24.

January 7

Today a group of twelve enlisted men were released from duty and are to be ready to leave at any time for newly activated units in a different theater of operations.

January 8

Second Lieutenant Robert G. Mainzer was assigned and joined our Company per Paragraph 55 Special Order 5, Headquarters Army Air Force Service Command, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, dated 5 January, 1944. Lieutenant Mainzer is to be our new Commander. He and Captain Nowak were very busy all day making the sign over and exchanges.

January 9

Captain Nowak and the enlisted men who are leaving the organization were very busy with their packing. Lieutenant Mainzer, our new Commander, made a very good impression on the men of his new Command.

January 10

Today we had a number of changes in our organization. Captain Nowak, who has been with us since June, as our Commanding Officer was released and assigned to the 274th Signal Company, Depot Aviation per Paragraph 6 Special Order 5 dated 5 January, 1944, Headquarters Army Air Force Service Command, Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Technical Sergeant John J. Serrinec, Sergeants Ralph S. Liddinger and Richard Mondo, and Technician 4th Grade Raymond D. Spencer were assigned to the 874th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 5 Special Order 5 dated 5 January, 1944, Headquarters Army Air Force Service Command, Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Technician 3rd Grade William A. Anderson, Technician 4th Grade Norbert A. Hickman, Private First Class Manley Nelson, Private Russell J. Bigelow, and Private Howard Donohoe were assigned to the 1151st Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 3 Special Order 5 dated 5 January, 1944, Headquarters Army Air Service Command, Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Master Sergeant J. D. (IO) Sheppard, Private First Class Robert S. German, and Walter E. Ciecko were assigned to the 1152nd Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 3 Special Order 5 dated 5 January, 1944, Headquarters Army Air Force Service Command, Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Private First Class Harry C. Brock who underwent a minor operation at the 151st Station Hospital was released to duty.

January 11

Second Lieutenant George W. Long, Technical Sergeant Glenn H. Friedley, Technician 4th Grade Conrad R. Smith, and Private John R. Broderick were placed on detached service with our organization from the 1035th Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 1 Special Order 5 dated 6 January, 1944, Headquarters 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn).

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January 12

Eight additional men of the 12th Weather Squadron were attached to our organization for rations. Our basketball team dropped a very important game to the Headquarters aggregation, in Hangar B. Had our boys won this game they would have tied for the championship of the first half of the league play. As a result of the 30-19 loss they tied for second place in the league.

January 13

Mr. Schmidt and his depot crew was very busy today transferring equipment. The men carried out their duties in the usual efficient manner.

January 14

The second half of the basketball schedule started. This half is to be run off as a double elimination tournament. We lost a very roughly played game to the 19th Supply team.

January 15

Lieutenant John C. Bleszey, who is on detached service from our organization, was promoted to the grade of First Lieutenant per authority contained in letter, A.A.T.C.S.A., dated 22 December, 1943, effective 22 December, 1943. This is a well deserved promotion and all the men of this organization were proud to see Lieutenant Bleszey receive it.

January 15

First Lieutenant Lloyd Froland and Technical Sergeant Arnold L. Morrison were sent from duty to detached service with 2676th Signal School Platoon per Paragraph 1 Special Order 12 dated 14 January, 1944, Headquarters Air Force Sub-Depot Number 12. Our team won their basketball game tonight to remain in the running. Roy "Slim" Martindale was lost to the team for the remainder of the season when he received a badly wrenched ankle. He was removed to the Base Dispensary where x-rays revealed that the ankle was badly sprained but not broken. "Slim" will be confined to quarters for several days.

January 17

There was a good mail call for a change. The morale of the Company rose at least one hundred per cent. Every one was busy until late bed time answering letters. We had rumors that we might have to send some of our Radio Operators on detached service.

January 18

Technician 5th Grade John Y. Miller was sent on detached service not to exceed three days, per Paragraph 4 Special Order 14 dated 17 January, 1944, Headquarters Air Force Sub-Depot Number 12.

January 19

We were eliminated from the basketball tournament last night by the Reclamation and Salvage quintet. Our team played their hearts out in the second half trying to overcome the long lead the opponents built up in the first half. Our regular center "Slim" Martindale, watched the game from the side line. He was still limping badly from the sprained ankle sustained in a game a few days previously. Our team gave a very good account of itself during the short season of play. Our's was easily the third best team in the league. If we had

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January 19 con't.

been able to keep all the men who started the season, we might have had the championship team--but the war must go on, so we will not grumble over having to give up a few men.

January 20

Staff Sergeant Floyd V. Simmons and Technician 4th Grade Roger M. Sherman were sent on detached service with the 391st Service Company per Paragraph 1 Special Order 16, Headquarters A F Sub-Depot Number 12, dated 19 January, 1944.

January 21

The personnel of this base were advised via the Daily Bulletin of the possibility of ordering gifts for every occasion for friends back home. A list of gifts may found at the local Post Exchange. The selection is made, the money paid to the post exchange authorities, and thirty days later the gifts together with your card will be delivered to your friend in any part of the United States. The picture, "Adventures of a Rookie" was shown at the Base Theater.

January 22

Corporal Robert J. Loberger, Private First Class James V. Schrimsher, and Private Raymond L. Middlemas were sent from duty to detached service with the 6660th Signal School Company (Provisional) per Paragraph 2 Special Order 18, Headquarters A F Sub-Depot Number 12, dated 21 January, 1944. These men will be in Message Center School for approximately 21 days. Technician 5th Grade John Y. Miller who had been on detached service to Algiers for three days returned to duty.

January 23

Private Ernest B. Thompson, who was sent to the hospital for a major operation in August 1943, and who was later transferred to the 21st General Hospital was reassigned to us from the Personnel Replacement Center 7A, 19th Replacement Battalion per Paragraph 1 Special Order 19, Headquarters 19th Replacement Battalion dated 20th January, 1944. Private Thompson was stationed within seven miles of us. Since the Replacement Pool he was stationed in was for ground forces and Private Thompson was assigned to the air forces, he was sent some 800 miles to an Air Force Replacement Pool, then sent back to us.

January 24

Staff Sergeant James A. Clarke, one of our Wire Chiefs, who was sent out on detached service some time ago, was released and assigned to the 1150th Signal Company, Service Group, per Paragraph 7 Special Order 19, Headquarters ASCMTO dated 19 January, 1944.

January 25

A Base Barber Shop was opened today. The barbers are Italian Prisoners of War. The prices are very reasonable; haircut, five francs; shave, five francs; shampoo, five francs; and massage, five francs. No cash will be accepted at the shop. Tokens worth five francs and purchased at the Post Exchange are used in lieu of cash. The picture, "Girl Crazy" with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, was shown at the Base Theater.

January 26

Quite a number of the men of this organization saw the basketball games played in Hangar B. The Oran League games are being played there. The Depot Supply with Warrant Officer Schmidt in charge, has been handling an abundance of material recently.

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S E C R E T

January 27

There was no mail again today. The mail has been coming in very slowly since the first of the year. The morale of the men of this organization has been unusually high since Christmas. With no mail, however, the morale is gradually slipping.

January 28

The beautiful sunshing weather is still holding on. We have been expecting every day for the rain to start. We have had a whole month without a rain. This is quite different to the weather during January of 1943 when, as I remember, it rained ever day.

January 29

We had a called meeting of the committee for the planning of a party for Valentine's Day. Technical Sergeant Roy D. Baker, was made chairman of the committee. The group is almost the same as the one for our New Year's party. They did such a good job that we decided to use them again. No mail again today.

January 30

Today was another beautiful sunshing day. Our organization was well represented at the morning church service. A great number of the men of this base were observed in various phases of sports. Touch football games, throwing baseballs and playing volley ball seemed to be the order of the day for all men who were off duty.

January 31

Technician Fourth Grade Mirhan D. Paragon was placed on detached service with this organization from detached service with Company A, 6740th Radar Service Battalion, from 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 12 Special Order 27 dated 27 January, 1944, Headquarters ASCMTO. This was pay day and a great many of the men of our organization were helping the War Bond drive by buying bonds.

For the Commanding Officer:

Laurence A. Wise
LAURENCE A. WISE,
2nd Lt., Sig. C.
Per. Officer.

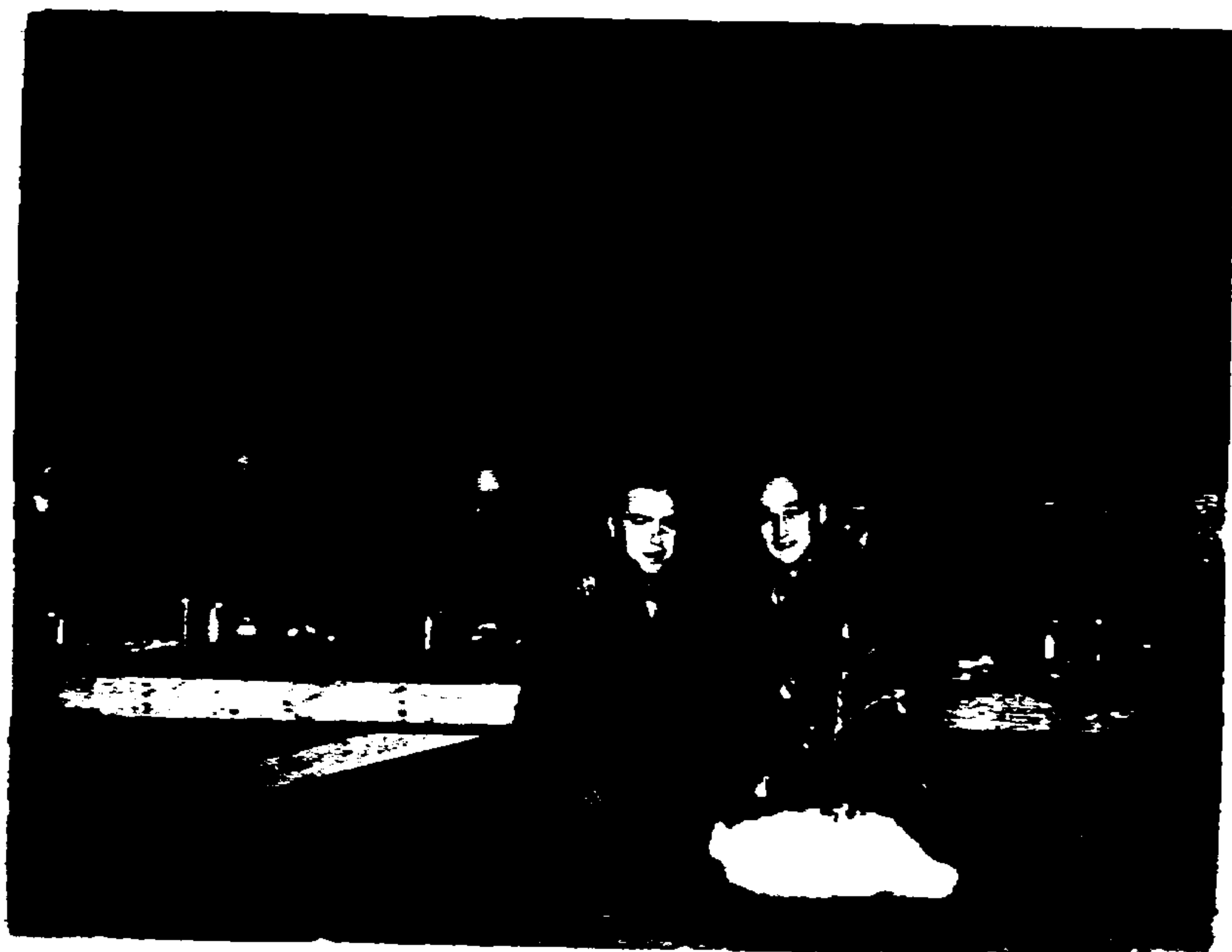
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Sheet No. 1. Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG. La Senia, Algeria

Month of February 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., S. C.

- a. Original unit
 - (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February, 1941.
 - (4) Authority of organization: Table of organization Number 11-257, dated 16 December, 1940; and letter WDAGO File AG-221, dated 24 February, 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men).
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted
 - (1) At beginning of month: 6 O; 86 E/M
 - (2) Net increase: 1 O; 6 E/M
 - (3) Net decrease: 1 O; 0 E/M
 - (4) At end of month: 6 O; 92 E/M
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
 - (1) March Field, California
Date of Activation: 15 February, 1941
Date of Departure: 30 March, 1941
 - (2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City
Date of Arrival: 2 April, 1941
Date of Departure: 6 February, 1942
 - (3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia
Date of Arrival: 8 February, 1942
Date of Departure: 21 May, 1942
 - (4) Fort Dix, New Jersey
Date of Arrival: 22 May, 1942
Date of Departure: 30 June, 1942
 - (5) RAF Station, Malesworth, England
Date of Arrival: 15 July, 1942
Date of Departure: 17 September, 1942
 - (6) RAF Station, Podington, England
Date of Arrival: 17 September, 1942
Date of Departure: 6 December, 1942
Date of Arrival: 23 December, 1942
 - (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None
(Unit has had following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt. Elmer F. Ganz, 15 February, 1941--28 November, 1941; 1st Lt. Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November, 1941--4 February, 1942; 2nd Lt. John B. Winsted, 4 February, 1942--18 September, 1942; 2nd Lt. Robert J. Kimmer, 18 September, 1942--22 February, 1943; Capt. Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February, 1943--14 June, 1943; Capt. Otto J. Nowak, 14 June, 1943--8 January, 1944; 2nd Lt. Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January, 1944--19 February, 1944; Capt. Harry F. Ort, 19 February, 1944--to date).
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: Two (2) photographs inclosed with current Special Events.

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Captain, Signal Corps
Commanding

SECRET

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Special Account, 1033rd Signal Company, SG. La Senia, Algeria
Month of February 1944 Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., S.C.

February 17th was a gala day for the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group. That was the date of our post-poned Valentine party.

The committee for arrangement of the evening's entertainment consisted of Technical Sergeant Roy D. Baker, chairman, Staff Sergeant Michael Kaminsky, decorations, Technician 4th Grade Joseph Sopenski, food, Technician 4th Grade Raymond Brane, drinks, Sergeant John F. Gillespie, music, and Technician 5th Grade Raymond Cunningham, transportation.

The committee was able to procure the use of the Non-Commissioned Officer's Club in Oran for the occasion. This place served our purpose nicely since it contained a bar, a band stand, tables, and ample floor space for dancing. Colorful paper hearts, created by Sergeant Kaminsky, occupied prominent positions along the walls, depicting Valentine's day.

The bar was tended by regular personnel of the Non-Com's Club. The drinks they dispensed consisted of beer and punch that really had a PUNCH, believe me.

The music was furnished by "The Big Six", a part of the MBS Headquarters Command Band. The lads were right in the groove, with a nice variety of hot and sweet tunes. The band reminded me of the old Dixie Land bands, of days gone by.

The sandwiches and doughnuts, furnished by Sergeant Sopenski, were delicious and were perhaps enjoyed by the mothers who accompanied their daughters, more than any part of the program.

The girls were very nice looking and were good dancers. There were plenty of girls so that any one who wished could dance when he wished. This must have been one of the better parties held in North Africa.

Besides our own enlisted personnel and officers, we had some visitors whom we were glad to have; namely: Major R. K. Fadel, Captain William A. Shores, Lieutenants Sally Eilers, Helen Freedom, Helen Gothart, Army Air Corps Nurses; and Miss Ann Morgan, of the American Red Cross.

The men of our organization certainly enjoyed this occasion and are already planning a party to celebrate our two years over seas which is not too far in the future.

(Pictures taken at the party are attached).

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 1033rd Signal Company, SG La Senia, Algeria

Month of February 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., SC.

<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
<u>1.</u>	This was a typical first of the month. Some of the men were observed sending money orders home. Some five or six men came by the orderly room to buy bonds. Then there were a few who lost all their pay at the usual games of chance.
<u>2.</u>	There was a good mail call today. The men were exchanging remarks from their letters in true brotherly style. It is really amazing what a good morale builder a letter from home is.
<u>3.</u>	Our company clerk was kept busy all day making out war bonds. Technician 4th Grade Sam Karich was the largest single cash buyer. He bought a \$100 bond and a \$25 bond. It seems that he did all right in a game of chance the night before.
<u>4.</u>	Technician 5th Grade John Y. Miller was sent to the 151st Station Hospital. John was suffering from boils. This is the second trip John has made to the hospital for the same treatment. Here is hoping the medics can find the cause for John is a key man in the Cryptographic Section.
<u>5.</u>	Today the committee for our party met to get things lined up. Technical Sergeant Roy D. Baker was made chairman. Other members included Technician 4th Grade Brane, Technician 4th Grade Kaminsky, Technician 4th Grade Sopen-ski, Technician 5th Grade Cunningham, and Technician 5th Grade Gillespie. The committee decided that it would be impossible to procure a place for the party on Valentine's Day as planned but that everything could be worked out for February 17.
<u>6.</u>	Today was Sunday. The church service was very impressive. We have one of the best choirs in North Africa. They sound better than most church choirs back home. Our Company had a good attendance record today.
<u>7.</u>	Today Second Lieutenant Long, Technical Sergeant Friedley, Technician 4th Grade Smith, and Private Broderick were released from detached service to return to their own outfit per Paragraph 1 Special Order 5, Headquarters 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn), dated 8 January, 1944. Technician 4th Grade Parigan was released from detached service to return to proper station per Paragraph 12, Special Order 27, Headquarters AFSC/MTO, dated 27 January, 1944.
<u>8.</u>	First Lieutenant Lloyd Froland and Technical Sergeant Arnold L. Morrison returned from detached service to duty per Paragraph 1 Special Order 12 A F Sub Depot Number 12, dated 14 January, 1944. These two men had been attending a Radar school at Canastota.
<u>9.</u>	There was a very good picture at the Base Theater. Many of the men were discussing the picture for hours after returning to the barracks.
<u>10.</u>	Technical Sergeant Baker, chairman of the dance committee, informed us today that he was able to lease the Non-Commissioned Officers Club in Oran for our dance on 17 February. Also, he procured the services of one of the best dance bands in this section for the occasion.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 11. | Corporal Robert J. Loberger, Private First Class James V. Schrimser, and Private Raymond L. Middlemas, who have been attending Message Center School for three weeks returned for duty in our organization today. |
| 12. | Today was the birthday of one of the great men of our country. I am sure that most fellows over seas thought of Lincoln's birthday at sometime during the course of the day but no programs were planned as in peace times. Each man is doing his little part to defend the rights of that great country he worked so hard to hold together. |
| 13. | Second Lieutenant Lawrence A. Wise was released from assignment and assigned to 874th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 7, Special Order 38, Headquarters ASC/MTO, dated 7 February, 1944. Lieutenant Wise had been serving in the capacity of personnel officer, wire, and chemical warfare officer. He was competent and certainly well liked by all the men of the organization. He left a host of friends in this Command and we wish him well in his new organization, which is headed by Captain Nowak, who was our former commanding officer. |
| 14. | The phrase most often heard today was, "Well, I hope you are home for next Valentine." Quite a number of men received Valentines in the mail today. They enjoyed them but I am sure that each one would have enjoyed a regular letter more. |
| 15. | We had our first volley ball game of the season after the evening chow. There was a full team on each side of the net and the fellows had a very good time until it grew too dark to see the ball. |
| 16. | Second Lieutenant George R. Northup was sent on detached service with 6740th Radar Service Battalion (Prov) per Paragraph 9 Special Order 42, Headquarters AFSC/MTO, dated 11 February, 1944. Lieutenant Northup was in the Radar Section. He hated to leave just one day before our impending company party. The Lieutenant is very well liked in the company and all the men hope that he will soon return. |
| 17. | The most interesting thing of this date was, of course, our company party. A full account of the party will be found in the Special Events Section. |
| 18. | There were quite a number of "big" heads as a result of the company party. This did not interfere with the usual routine. Each man carried out his duties in the usual efficient manner. Technician 4th Grade Roger Sherman, one of our radio operators who has been on detached service with the 391st Service Company, returned to duty. |
| 19. | Captain Harry P. Ort was assigned and joined our organization from Headquarters I ASAC (SP), per Paragraph 5, Special Order 33, dated 17 February, 1944. Captain Ort will assume command of our organization. |
| 20. | Today we received a small bundle of very late letters. Those who were lucky enough to receive it, were reading mail which was barely a week old. That particular bundle of letters must have had just the right connections all the way through. I was not one of the fortunate ones. |
| 21. | There has been much "gripping" over the picture which was shown at the base theater. One "G.I." was heard to remark that he wondered why they took up cargo space for such a poor picture. |
| 22. | This was the birthday of the father of our country. I am sure that most men over seas thought of him and appreciated better than ever before his hardships at Valley Forge. |

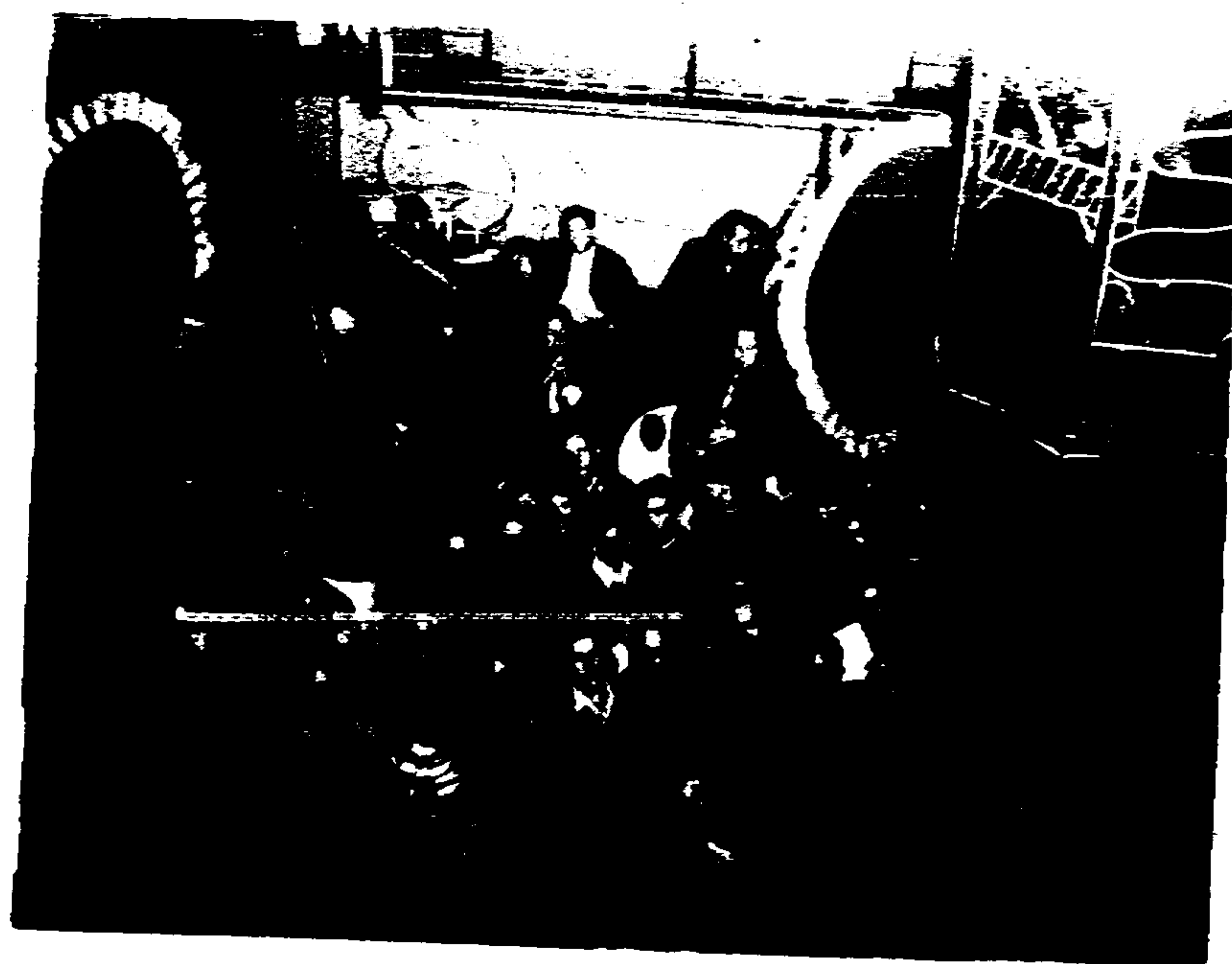
S E C R E T

S E C R E T

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 23. | Private First Class Charles J. Meyers joined our organization from the Personnel Replacement Center 7-C, APO 528 per Paragraph 30 Special Order 35, Headquarters 22nd Replacement Battalion, dated 14 February, 1944. Private First Class Anthony J. Namake and Private Michael E. Healey joined our organization from Personnel Replacement Center 7-C per Paragraph 40 Special Order 34, Headquarters 22nd Replacement Battalion, dated 13 February, 1944. |
| 24. | Warrant Officer Schmidt and his boys at the Supply Depot have been very busy for the past few days shipping out materials. They ran a night shift last night in order to finish out a shipment on schedule. |
| 25. | Technician 5th Grade John Y. Miller, who has been confined in the hospital for sometime was released for duty. He is not fully recovered. He will have to go on sick call for a while but he is able to take his regular shift in the Cryptographic Section. |
| 26. | A large crowd attended church today. The choir is unique in that it is made up of many grades and colors. The choir is led by a Corporal. A Staff Sergeant, a First Lieutenant, and a colored Corporal do the solo work. There are several English soldiers, one New Zealander, and some Canadians in the group. These men can really sing. |
| 27. | The much talked of soldier extravaganza picture by Irving Berlin was shown at the base theater. The men really liked the picture and are much interested in the rumors that the stage production is headed in this direction. |
| 28. | The picture, "Saharah", starring Humphrey Bogart was shown at the base theater. The men were somewhat divided on their opinion of the picture. Most of them did not particularly enjoy it. |
| 29. | Staff Sergeant Floyd Simmons returned from detached service today to duty. Sergeant Simmons is one of our high speed radio operators and has been helping the 891st Signal Company for the past few weeks. This was pay day and the men of our organization were busy paying up old debts, buying bonds, and sending money orders home. |

Harry J. Ort
HARRY J. ORT,
Captain, Signal Corps.
Commanding.

S E C R E T





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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1. Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG. La Senia, Algeria

Month of March 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., S. C.

- a. Original unit
(1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
(2) Place of organization: March Field, California
(3) Date of organization: 15 February, 1941.
(4) Authority of organization: Table of organization Number 11-237, dated 16 December, 1940; and letter WDAGO File AG-221, dated 24 February, 1941
(5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men).
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted
(1) At beginning of month: 6 O; 92 E/M
(2) Net increase: 0 O; 9 E/M
(3) Net decrease: 1 O; 0 E/M
(4) At end of month: 5 O; 101 E/M
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
(1) March Field, California Date of Activation: 15 February, 1941
Date of Departure: 30 March, 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City Date of Arrival: 2 April, 1941
Date of Departure: 6 February, 1942
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia Date of Arrival: 8 February, 1942
Date of Departure: 21 May, 1942
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey Date of Arrival: 22 May, 1942
Date of Departure: 30 June, 1942
(5) RAF Station, Malesworth, England Date of Arrival: 15 July, 1942
Date of Departure: 17 September, 1942
(6) RAF Station, Poddington, England Date of Arrival: 17 September, 1942
Date of Departure: 6 December, 1942
(7) LaSenia Air Base, Algeria Date of Arrival: 23 December, 1942
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None
(Unit has had following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt. Elmer F. Ganz, 15 February, 1941--28 November, 1941; 1st Lt. Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November, 1941--4 February, 1942; 2nd Lt. John B. Winsted, 4 February, 1942--18 September, 1942; 2nd Lt. Robert J. Kimmer, 18 September, 1942--22 February, 1943; Capt. Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February, 1943--14 June, 1943; Capt. Otto J. Nowak, 14 June, 1943--8 January, 1944; 2nd Lt. Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January, 1944--19 February, 1944; Capt. Harry F. Ort, 19 February, 1944--to date).
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Capt. Sig. C.
Commanding.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 1033rd Signal Company, SG La Senia, Algeria

Month of March 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 1. | Technical Sergeant Joseph S. Yockubisin and Private Dale D. Dressel were assigned to our organization from the 22nd Replacement Battalion per Paragraph 30 Special Order 42, Headquarters 22nd Replacement Battalion, dated 21 February, 1944. Sergeant Robert R. Humphreys was assigned and joined our organization per Paragraph 18 Special Order 22 Headquarters 22nd Replacement Battalion, dated 21 February, 1944. |
| 2. | There was a large mail call today. Several men came by the Orderly Room to buy war bonds and to deposit money in Soldier's Savings. |
| 3. | Privates First Class William J. Salony and Robert G. Plate were assigned and joined our organization from I Air Service Area Command per Paragraph 4 Special Order 37, Hqs I ASAC dated 23 February, 1944. Plate was placed in the Radio Repair Section and Salony in Company Supply. |
| 4. | The following promotions were made in the Company effective 1 March, 1944. Technician 4th Grade Kaminsky to Staff Sergeant; Technicians 5th Grade Gillespie and Wilhite to Sergeants; Technicians 5th Grade Schwartz and Tarochione to Technicians 4th Grade; Privates First Class Campbell, Schmidt, and Stewart and Private Hamilton to Technician 5th Grade. |
| 5. | First Lieutenant John C. Bleazey was released from detached service to 907th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) and placed on detached service with the 306th Service Squadron, 41st Service Group. |
| 6. | Technician 4th Grade Roger M. Sherman, radio operator, was sent to sick quarters with an attack of appendicitis. |
| 7. | Sergeant Edward W. Ohrtz and Private First Class Charles R. Hartley reported for duty from 1085th Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 1 Special Order 44 Headquarters I ASAC, dated 3 March, 1944. |
| 8. | Technician 4th Grade Roger Sherman was released from sick quarters after recovering from a chronic attack of appendicitis. |
| 9. | The traffic in teletype, crypt, and radio is increasing daily. The first group of officers of the I ASAC moved in today. One of our men was fortunate in the drawing for prizes held by Special Services in connection with the war bond drive. Technician 4th Grade John M. Althoff is the proud possessor of a beautiful 17 jewel wrist watch, as the result of holding the lucky number for first prize. |
| 10. | Staff Sergeants Lloyd M. Allen and Edward B. Kusinski were assigned and joined our organization per Paragraph 88 Special Order 51 Headquarters 22nd Replacement Battalion dated 1 March, 1944. |

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- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 11. | Master Sergeant McDonald and his section were very busy installing a transmitter for the Radio Section. The Cryptographic Section was turned over to Lieutenant Berkman of the I ASAC. This section has been very capably headed by Technician 3rd Grade Washa for several months. The men from our organization will continue to work in this section but under the supervision of Lieutenant Berkman. |
| 12. | All section in our organization were very busy today especially Message Center, Crypt, and the Radio Station. The fact that we have a higher headquarters in I ASAC accounts for the enormous increase in traffic. |
| 13. | The Telephone Section has been working hard for the past few days installing telephones for the various offices in I ASAC Headquarters. |
| 14. | The Telephone Section was very active again today. Nine phones were changed from common battery to local battery. Inside wiring was installed in Building 21 for I ASAC. Twenty-six numbers were changed on the switchboard. These additional telephones has made Gypsy Lee switchboard a very busy place. |
| 15. | Technician 5th Grade Edward J. Crick, Private First Class Kenneth C. Alfield, Privates Marvin D. Stocks, Joseph P. Hammond, and Dominic Mucci reported for detached service from the 1044th Signal Company, Service Group (present organization, 1085th Signal Company, Service Group) per Paragraph 4 Special Order 50, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 14 March, 1944. |
| 16. | Private Robert G. Larson was sent on detached service to 6660th Signal School Platoon per Paragraph 2 Special Order 50, Headquarters I ASAC dated 14 March, 1944. Private Larson will take a six weeks course in teletype maintenance. |
| 17. | Staff Sergeant Wesley C. Rechr was confined to the dispensary with a badly wrenched ankle. He hurt the ankle while playing volley ball. This was a blow to the Radio Section since they are swamped with work and were already short handed. |
| 18. | The Depot Supply boys worked most of the night making a boat shipment. The Radio Station handled just short of 10,000 groups in 110 messages for the day. For the uninformed that is a lot of transmitting for one day. |
| 19. | Master Sergeant Frank R. Pole and Private First Class Cyrus W. Byrne were sent to the 151st Station Hospital. Sergeant Pole had a severe case of pneumonia and Private First Class Byrne was placed under observation for a possible diabetic condition. |
| 20. | The Teletype Section handled more traffic than they have for several months. They handled a total of 189 messages. The radio operators are certainly the over-worked boys these days. Six of them are handling from 100 to 130 messages per day. |
| 21. | Private First Class Charles J. Meyers was transferred to the 1081st Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 6 Special Order 51 Headquarters I ASAC dated 15 March, 1944. Technician 5th Grade Robert J. Badgley and Technician 5th Grade Jack M. Rowe reported from the 1044th Signal Company, Service Group for detached service with our organization. These two men are radio operators and relieve Technical Sergeant Mortwedt's over-worked men. |

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
22.	Staff Sergeant Wesley Reehr's injured ankle is sufficiently healed to allow him to report for duty. Warrant Officer Frank J. Schmidt was placed in quarters for treatment of malaria. This is the first day that Mr. Schmidt has failed to report for work at the Supply Depot since he started working there in December of 1942.
23.	Technician 3rd Grade Roy C. F. Martindale was sent on detached service to the 6660th Signal School Platoon per Paragraph 11 Special Order 45 Headquarters I ASAC, dated 19 March, 1944. The Signal Supply Section had a busy day. They made a large shipment by air freight and loaded 1000 boxes totaling 90 tons on board ship.
24.	Private First Class Anthony J. Mamake was released and assigned to the 1044th Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 6 Special Order 56 Headquarters I ASAC dated 21 March, 1944.
25.	Private First Class Cyrus Byrne was released from the hospital but will continue to report to sick call for observation. The Radio Repair Section started work on the installation of radio telegraph high speed equipment in our radio room.
26.	Corporals Leonard J. Pikaard, Joseph Weinfurter, Jack Steinholtz, Technician 5th Grade Murray P. Remmert, Privates First Class Jacob R. Burnside and Lawrence J. Calabro were assigned to our organization per Paragraph 4 Special Order 57 Headquarters I ASAC, dated 22 March, 1944. There was a very good U. S. O. stage show at the Base Theater. The men of the base particularly enjoyed the pretty acrobatic dancer in the troop. The Telephone Section installed rubber cable to the radio room to carry the lines necessary for efficient operation.
27.	The first work out for softball was held today. We decided, since we work shifts, not to try to field an organizational team this year. We are consolidating with the 1144th Quartermaster and the 18th A.A.C.S. The prospects look quite good and we should have a good team from the three outfits.
28.	Private John J. Hart was assigned to us from the 1081st Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 11 Special Order 58 Headquarters I ASAC dated 23 March, 1944.
29.	Second Lieutenant Robert G. Mainzer was released and assigned to the 1081st Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 13 Special Order 58 Headquarters I ASAC dated 23 March, 1944. We held a beer party in honor of Lieutenant Mainzer last night. Lieutenant Mainzer was with our organization less than three months but he made a host of friends. We hated to see him leave because he was an efficient officer and at the same time a true friend. I have never seen a man attach himself to so many men in so short a time and still command the respect of both officers and enlisted men with whom he was associated. We hated to see him leave the organization and we wish him the best of everything in his new assignment.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
30.	The Message Center was practically "snowed under" today with 245 messages being handled. The Depot Supply Section delivered to the port area for shipment, 87 tons of signal equipment. Technical Sergeant Roy D. Baker is doing a swell job of pinch-hitting for Mr. Schmidt, who is confined to the dispensary with a touch of malaria.
31.	The Base Theater showed "His Butler's Sister" with Deanna Durbin and Franchot Tone. A very good picture, it is. Our Day Room is almost finished. Staff Sergeant Michael Kaminsky has drawn some beautiful murals on the walls depicting scenes here in North Africa. The room, when completed will be something to be proud of. So endeth another month in North Africa.

Harry M. Ort
HARRY M. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1. Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG La Senia, Algeria

Month of April 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig.C

- a. Original unit
(1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
(2) Place of organization: March Field, California
(3) Date of organization: 15 February, 1941.
(4) Authority of organization: Table of organization Number 11-237, dated 16 December, 1940; and letter WDAGO File AG-221, dated 24 February, 1941.
(5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men).
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted
(1) At beginning of month: 5 O; 101 E/M
(2) Net increase: 1 O; 5 E/M
(3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 E/M
(4) At end of month: 6 O; 106 E/M
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
(1) March Field, California Date of Activation: 15 February, 1941
Date of Departure: 30 March, 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City Date of Arrival: 2 April, 1941
Date of Departure: 6 February, 1942
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia Date of Arrival: 8 February, 1942
Date of Departure: 21 May, 1942
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey Date of Arrival: 22 May, 1942
Date of Departure: 30 June, 1942
(5) RAF Station, Malesworth, England Date of Arrival: 15 July, 1942
Date of Departure: 17 September, 1942
(6) RAF Station, Podington, England Date of Arrival: 17 September, 1942
Date of Departure: 6 December, 1942
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria Date of Arrival: 23 December, 1942
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None
(Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt. Elmer F. Ganz, 15 February, 1941--28 November, 1941; 1st Lt. Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November, 1941--4 February, 1942; 2nd Lt. John B. Winsted, 4 February, 1942--16 September, 1942; 2nd Lt. Robert J. Kimmer, 18 September, 1942--22 February, 1943; Capt. Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February, 1943--14 June, 1943, Capt. Otto J. Nowak, 14 June, 1943--8 January, 1944; 2nd Lt. Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January, 1944--19 February, 1944; Capt. Harry F. Ort, 19 February, 1944--to date).
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

For the Commanding Officer:

James E. Horr
JAMES E. HERR,
CWO, U. S. A.
Personnel Officer.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 1033rd Signal Company, SG La Senia, Algeria

Month of April 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

DAY	EVENTS
1.	This was "All Fools" day and the American soldiers proved that they can keep their sense of humor by playing all sorts of tricks on each other. The most common gag was to tell everyone early in the morning that the long looked for invasion had taken place from England.
2.	Privates Charles R. Hartley and Marvin D. Stocks of the 1085th Signal Company, Service Group were released from detached service and returned to their proper station per Paragraph 1 Special Order 44 Headquarters I ASAC, dated 3 March 1944 and Paragraph 12 Special Order 63, same headquarters, dated 28 March 1944.
3.	Warrant Officer Frank J. Schmidt was released from the Base Dispensary today after having won a battle with Malaria. The men at the Signal Depot were very glad to see Mr. Schmidt return. Technical Sergeant Baker, ranking non-com in charge in Mr. Schmidt's absence, did a remarkable job of "pinch-hitting" but he admitted that there was nothing like having the head-man behind the desk.
4.	Technician 3rd Grade Roy C. F. Martindale, who was attending Carrier School with the 6660th Signal Company, Platoon was sent to the hospital as the result of a peculiar accident. Sergeant Martindale was on pass in Oran. He and a friend were walking on the side walk conversing when a weapons carrier swerved over and struck Roy in the back. It has not been established how badly Martindale is injured. The doctors are checking for possible internal injuries.
5.	Technician 4th Grade Ferdinand Beyer and Private Cedric M. Usher arrived on detached service from the 1085th Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 6 Special Order 65, Headquarters I ASAC dated 31 March, 1944. These men will be placed in the Radio Operations Section.
6.	Private Cyrus W. Byrne was confined to Sick Quarters today again with an infected leg and hand. The Signal Depot delivered fifteen radar trucks and trailers to the port for loading aboard a liberty ship.
7.	The operations sections were very busy today. The Message Center handled 255 messages and the Radio Station handled a total of 9883 groups. The Cryptographic Section handled well over 1000 groups during the day.
8.	Master Sergeant McDonald and Technical Sergeant Canfield set up a public address system for the Sunrise Easter program. An overflow crowd attended the final basketball game. A goodly number of men from this organization attended all the ball games in the playoff tournament which started on Monday, 3 April 1944. The Navy All-Stars defeated the Blackbirds of Sicily and thus became champions of the Mediterranean Theater of Operations.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 9. | Corporal Everett E. Ankney was assigned to our organization per Paragraph 10 Special Order 72, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 7 April 1944. A Sunrise Easter program was held on the field. The program was very impressive and was well received by a large crowd of service men and women. |
| 10. | The Company censors had a busy day today. It seems that all the men were thinking of home on Easter Sunday. I believe that every man in the command wrote at least one letter home. |
| 11. | James E. Horr, Chief Warrant Officer was assigned and joined our organization today. Mr. Horr is an Army man with several years of service to his credit. He has a brilliant background for an Operations Platoon Officer, and will fit very nicely into the vacancy left by Lieutenant Mainzer. Mr. Horr came to us per Paragraph 16 Special Order 72, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 7 April 1944. |
| 12. | Private Cyrus W. Byrne was sent from Sick Quarters to duty. The infection on his hand is healed but his leg is not entirely healed as yet. The Signal Supply has been very busy filling orders and handling intransit materials. |
| 13. | The Telephone Section installed a buzzer system for the Base Adjutant. The Signal Depot received approximately sixty-five tons of radar equipment from the docks and placed it in stock. |
| 14. | The men of the base were ordered by way of the Daily Bulletin to use Dubbin on their shoes in order to prolong the life of the shoes. Also a new base order directs all enlisted personnel going on pass to check in and out with the Sergeant of the Guard. |
| 15. | Technician 3rd Grade Claude L. Wallace, Technician 4th Grade Peter Tarochione, Corporals Leonard J. Pikaard, Jack Steinholtz, Joseph Weinfurter, and Private First Class Robert G. Plate were sent on detached service with the 1085th Signal Company, Service Group at Casablanca per Paragraph 7 Special Order 78, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 14 April 1944. |
| 16. | Radio traffic hit a new high today when the station handled a total of 10432 word groups. The radio operators are earning their pay with handling three radio nets and pulling guard when their regular turns come. |
| 17. | The Radio Repair Section completed the installation of a SCR-695 radio set in a P-39 for the French 3/6 Squadron. "Riding High" with Dick Powell, Dorothy Lamour, and Victor Moore showed at the Base Theater. |
| 18. | A U.S.O. concert program was presented from the stage of the Base Theater. At first, most of the crowd was dubious but before the program ended they were cheering wildly at the end of each number. In the opinion of many it was the best program presented in a long time. The U.S.O. should be encouraged to send out more such shows. |
| 19. | Corporals Clarence A. Chafey, Marshall V. Clements, Jack A. Cottrell, Richard J. Griffiths, Technician 5th Grade Clair J. Chamberlain, and Private Martin Chasin joined our organization per Paragraph 3 Special Order 81 Headquarters I ASAC, dated 17 April 1944. |

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
20.	Technician 3rd Grade Roy Martindale, who was hurt in an automobile accident was released from the hospital. Corporal Richard Reiners was assigned from I ASAC per Paragraph 3 Special Order 81 Headquarters I ASAC.
21.	Privates Dale D. Dressel and Raymond C. Schuler were transferred to the 1085th Signal Company, Service Group and placed on detached service with this organization per Paragraph 4 Special Order 81, Headquarters I ASAC dated 16 April 1944.
22.	Private Elmer H. Iserhott went on detached service with 6660th Signal School Company, (Prov) per Paragraph 16 Special Order 75, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 10 April, 1944. Private Iserhott will study in the Message Center School.
23.	Master Sergeant Pole, who was confined to the hospital with a severe case of pneumonia was transferred to the Detachment of Patients, 151st Station Hospital per Paragraph 1 Special Order 112, Headquarters 151st Station Hospital, dated 20 April 1944.
24.	Chief Warrant Officer Horr went on detached service on important business concerning the Company. Rumors have it that there is the possibility that the 1033rd Signal Company might make a move at long last.
25.	All men of this section were warned that not more than one dollar in blue seal money could be in their possession in this Theater of Operation. The teletype operators were busy today as evidenced by the total of 288 messages handled.
26.	Private Robert G. Larson returned to duty from detached service. Larson has been attending a six week's teletype maintenance school. His classification has been changed from teletype operator to teletype maintenance man.
27.	All stoves had to be turned in to the Quartermaster today. The Supply Sergeant hated to see the stoves go, but then, who knows, perhaps, we will not need them next year.
28.	Master Sergeant Pole was re-assigned to our organization today per Paragraph 4 Special Order 52, Headquarters First Replacement Depot Personnel Center #2, dated 25 April, 1944.
29.	Chief Warrant Officer Horr returned today and his report carried the alleged move beyond the rumor point. The Radio Operations Section reached a new high today when they reported 1205 word groups as the total traffic for the day. Master Sergeant McDonald and his men made a road test on the repair vans. Sergeant McDonald and his section have been assigned the job of installing several VHF radio sets for the Navy Department. Mr. Schmidt salvaged a PE-92 power unit and procured a PE-95 for our organization.
30.	Technician 4th Grade Herbert Holtvogt was sent on detached service to the 6660th Signal School Company, per Paragraph 4 Special Order 86, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 22 April, 1944. Holtvogt will attend Field Wire School. Private Michael Healey was transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron of the 19th Air Depot Group per Paragraph 11, Special Order 91, Headquarters I ASAC dated 27 April, 1944.

S E C R E T

SECRET

For the Commanding Officer:

James E. Horr
JAMES E. HERR,
CWO, U. S. A.
Personnel Officer.

SECRET

RETURNED THE ARCHIVES THE AAF HISTORICAL SECTION	MAY-1944
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SIG-1033-H1(10)

1033d Sig. Co. (H-2)

27 May 1944

5044-18
 MICROFILMED

SIG - 1033-H1

MAY - 44

SECRET

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina, Tunisia

Month of May 1944 Prepared by Jacob R. Hamilton, Technician 5th Grade, Sig. C.

- a. Original unit
- (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February, 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: Table of organization Number 11-237 dated 16 December, 1940; and letter WDAGO File AG-221, dated 21 February, 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men.)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted
- (1) At beginning of month: 5 O; 105 E/M
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 E/M
 - (3) Net decrease: 1 O; 4 E/M
 - (4) At end of month: 5 O; 101 E/M
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (1) March Field, California | Date of Activation: 15 February, 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 March, 1941 |
| (2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City | Date of Arrival: 2 April, 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 February, 1942 |
| (3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia | Date of Arrival: 8 February, 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May, 1942 |
| (4) Fort Dix, New Jersey | Date of Arrival: 22 May, 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 June, 1942 |
| (5) RAF Station, Malesworth, England | Date of Arrival: 15 July, 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 17 September, 1942 |
| (6) RAF Station, Fodington, England | Date of Arrival: 17 September, 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 December, 1942 |
| (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria | Date of Arrival: 23 December, 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May, 1944 |
| (8) El Aouina Army Air Base, Tunisia | Date of Arrival: 25 May, 1944 |
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt. Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February, 1941--28 November, 1941; 1st Lt. Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November, 1941--1 February, 1942; 2nd Lt. John B. Winsted, 4 February, 1942--16 September, 1942; 2nd Lt. Robert J. Kimmer, 18 September, 1942--22 February, 1943; Capt. Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February, 1943--14 June, 1943; Capt. Otto J. Nowak, 14 June, 1943--8 January, 1944; 2nd Lt. Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January, 1944--19 February, 1944; Capt. Harry F. Ort, 19 February, 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: One (1) photograph inclosed with current Special Events.

3-3-3
SECRET

S E C R E T

For the Commanding Officer:

James E. Horr
JAMES E. HERR.
CWO, U. S. A.
Personnel Officer.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia
 Month of May 1944 Prepared by Jacob R. Hamilton, Technician 5th Grade, Sig. C.

DAY	EVENTS
1.	This month appears as if it is going to be a busy one for this organization. It is definite that we are going to move and arrangements for the movement are beginning to take place. Captain Ort and Master Sergeant Pole left today on detached service to observe the nature of the duties we are about to undertake. Private Thompson was transferred to the 1108th Quartermaster Company, per Paragraph 21, Special Order 91, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 27 April, 1944.
2.	Plans are completely arranged for another Company Dance to be held at Club Oranaise on 10 May. Music will be furnished by the MBS Headquarters Band and once again the committee is trying to have some AACCS present.
3.	Captain Ort and Sergeant Pole returned from detached service today and reported that our new station will be a "good deal."
4.	Operations has been kept very busy ever since they started to handle communications for I ASAC. Today the Message Center handled a total of 269 messages and the Radio Station passed 10,168 groups.
5.	All men of the organization are preparing their personal belongings for the forthcoming change of stations. "Guadalcanal Diary" with William Bendix and Lloyd Nolan was the main attraction at the Base Theater.
6.	The softball players of our organization are represented in a league with the 1144th Quartermaster and the 18th AACCS. The team is named the "Combines" and has a record of five wins and one defeat. The traffic totals for the day were 266 messages in the Message Center and a total of 10022 groups passed through the Radio Station.
7.	Corporal Chafey was transferred to the 891st Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 11, Special Order 94, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 2 May, 1944. Technician 3rd Grade Killian was sent to the 6660th Signal School on detached service per Paragraph 5, Special Order 86, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 22 April, 1944.
8.	Private Usher was released from detached service with our organization and assigned to us per Paragraph 9, Special Order 95, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 3 May, 1944. Headquarters Squadron of the 19th Air Depot Group started their outdoor theater tonight which is directly in front of our barracks and makes it quite convenient for the men of this organization. The name of the picture was "Four Jills And A Jeep". It was a true story of the trip made by Kartha Raye, Kaye Francis, and Carole Landis to England and North Africa and was enjoyed by our men as many of them saw Kartha Raye in person when she visited La Senia Air Base.
9.	First Sergeant Biggers went to the hospital today for an operation on his eye. Sergeant Biggers's vacancy will be filled by Sergeant Gillespie. Lieutenant Froland and his Radar Team, consisting of Technical Sergeant Morrison, Staff Sergeants Gray, Hedrick, Murphy, and Sergeant Huntoon went on detached service to the 213th AAA Group per Paragraph 2, Movement Order 34, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 30 April, 1944.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
10.	Base Headquarters informed all organizations of the base via Daily Bulletin that a Daily Staff Journal was no longer needed to be submitted. Today was the date of our party, a full account of the event is found in the Special Events Section.
11.	All sections of the organization continue to be kept busy getting equipment in shape for our movement. Sergeant Sopenski, Mess Sergeant, has all arrangements made for the organization to eat while traveling to our new site.
12.	Private Iserhott returned to duty today after attending a full course in Message Center Procedure at the 6660th Signal School.
13.	Sixteen men left the organization this morning as an advanced detail to arrange our equipment at the new station. Technical Sergeant Snider was in charge of the group which traveled by train, better known to the men as the "Arab Cannonball". These men will be attached to the 891st Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 1, Movement Order 36, Headquarters I ASAC dated 3 May, 1944. Private Usher was sent to the 6660th Signal School per Paragraph 7, Special Order 94, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 2 May, 1944. Usher will attend a course in radio operation.
14.	Technician 3rd Grade Wallace, Technician 4th Grade Tarochione, Corporals Pikaard, Steinholtz, Weinfurter, and Private First Class Plate returned from detached service with the 1085th Signal Company, Service Group.
15.	Mr. Horr left today to join our advanced party at our new location. We have all learned by now it is to be El Aouina Army Air Base. Staff Sergeant Floyd V. Simmons was transferred to the 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 6, Special Order 101, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 12 May, 1944. Simmons is an original member of the organization and will be missed by his many friends.
16.	Today was the first day for the wearing of the khaki uniform. All of the Company's "Casinovs" and "Jitterbugs" wore their new uniforms to the weekly dance at the Base Theater. The 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) arrived here today, this is the organization that will take over our duties when we leave.
17.	There was a large mail call today which is one of the best means of lifting the morale of the organization. Another outstanding feature of the day with the men was the drawing of double rations at the Post Exchange. These were given to our company as we expect to be traveling for several days.
18.	Master Sergeant Pole and Technical Sergeant Kortwedt left today for El Aouina per Paragraph 7, Special Order 103, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 16 May, 1944.
19.	Nine men who were on detached service with were released today. These men were from the 1085th and 1044th Signal Companies, Service Groups and they did a very good job of helping us handle communications for I ASAC.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T


- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 20. | Today was a busy day for our Administration Section. Everything had to be cleared before leaving the base then there were several transfers and men ordered on detached service. The happiest man in the organization on this date was Corporal Robert J. Loberger as he left to go home on rotation. Loberger, serving twenty four months of overseas duty, was a popular of the Company and is our first to go back to the states. He was transferred to Personnel Center # 2, IBS, per Paragraph 2, Special Order 134, Headquarters AAFSC/ETO, dated 13 May, 1944. Sergeant Streifer, Technician 4th Grade Bacon, and Technician 5th Grade Miller were placed on detached service with the 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 10, Special Order 105, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 18 May, 1944. Another outstanding member of the organization was lost today when Technician 5th Grade Rossow was transferred to Headquarters MATS, per Paragraph 2, Special Order 104, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 20 May, 1944. First Lieutenant Bleazey, and his Radar Team consisting of Technical Sergeant Combs, Technician 3rd Grade Lapcewich, Sergeant Beissel, and Technician 4th Grade Fahey were transferred to the 907th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 14, Special Order 135, Headquarters AAFSC/ETO, dated 14 May, 1944. |
| 21. | Awakened early this morning by the voice of Technician 3rd Grade Kartindale, Charge of Quarters, the Company was fed, packed all belongings, and were seen leaving La Senia Air Base around nine o'clock. After spending eighteen months at La Senia, our men left many friends both at the base and in Oran and enjoyed many good times as well as their work on the base. We traveled 142 miles and bivouaced at Orleansville for the night. |
| 22. | We traveled through many miles of beautiful scenery today. After traveling a distance of 152 miles we stopped at L'Arba, a small town outside of Algiers. Several men went on pass to Algiers and had a very enjoyable time. |
| 23. | Eating "C" rations for lunch and two other cooked meals from Sergeant Sosnenski's rolling kitchen, sleeping on the ground, and doing the best they can to clean up, the men's morale is good and everyone seems to be enjoying the trip. We traveled 148 miles and bivouaced outside of a small town called Sefia, which appeared to be a very clean place. |
| 24. | Traveling 190 miles, most of which was through the mountains, we stopped for the night near a town, Souk Ahras. In order to have fresh eggs for breakfast, everyone bought two eggs from an Arab. Some men went on pass, some rode horses, while others listened to small Arab boys impersonate Bing Crosby. |
| 25. | Our trip ended today, after traveling 160 miles, we had reached our new station, El Aouina Army Air Base. The men were a little tired and were glad to "hit the sacks" that our advanced party had set up. Corporals Richard, Souhrada, and Szachowicz joined our organization per Paragraph 17, Special Order 117, Headquarters AAFSC/ETO, dated 26 April, 1944. |
| 26. | Today found the men busy making things comfortable in their new living quarters and looking over the work we are about to undertake. There seems to be quite a lot for us to do and the more there is, the better our organization will like it. |

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
27.	Already the men have found many things to do in their spare time here at El Aouina. Many of us have gone to the beach at La Marsa and have enjoyed swimming, dancing, and movies. All seem to like their new surroundings very much.
28.	A radar team led by Second Lieutenant Polishuk and consisting of Technical Sergeant Hughes, Staff Sergeant Valence, Technicians 3rd Grade Comer and Tolenaar, and Technician 4th Grade Pale was attached to us this date per Paragraph 4, Special Order 143, Headquarters AAFSC/MTG, dated 22 May, 1944.
29.	Sergeant Streifer, Technician 4th Grade Bacon, and Technician 5th Grade Viller, three of our cryptographic men, returned from detached service with the 915th Signal Company, Derot (Avn).
30.	Staff Sergeant Reohr, Sergeant Gover, and Private Chasin went on detached service to Pantellaria Air Base per Paragraph 3, Special Order 80, Headquarters AFSD # 2, dated 28 May, 1944. Some envied them a bit, others didn't hear much in favor of and against the place.
31.	After a month of much activity, our men are ready to give their best to all Signal work here at El Aouina and are anxious to establish for themselves and the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group the same reputation for courteous and efficient duty that all at AFSD # 12 so readily admitted. We are reminded of that reputation by a letter that reached us with a wrapper indorsement from Headquarters AFSD # 12 from the French 1/5 Squadron expressing their regret at loss of our services and commending all personnel for the cooperation we gave them, especially Warrant Officer Schmidt.

For the Commanding Officer:


 JAMES E. HORR,
 CWO, U. S. A.
 Personnel Officer.

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Special Account, 1033rd Signal Company, SG. El Aouina, Tunisia
Month of May 1944 Prepared by Jacob R. Hamilton, Technicien 5th Grade, SC

Another well planned organizational dance was held on 10 ~~May~~ at the Club Oranaise. This was our last formal gathering of the Company while at La Senia.

Sergeant Gillespie was in charge of the entertainment and did a fine job in procuring the MBS Headquarters Band. Not one FAC was present, but the men enjoyed dancing with a very nice group of French mademoiselles.

Drinks and refreshments were furnished by Sergeant Sopenski. Drinks consisted of beer and the "Sopenski Booby Trap", a mixture of several French wines. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fine assortment of refreshments.

Our officers, Captain Ort, Mr. Horr, and Mr. Schmidt were present for the occasion. Guests for the evening consisted of Lieutenant Haring, Postal Officer at La Senia Air Base; Lieutenants Ellers, Tucker, and Gothart, Army Nurses Corps; Miss Ann Morgan, American Red Cross; and Rene Koch, an Oren Barber and a friend of all the men. Also present were several enlisted men who have been very good friends of members of the organization during our time at La Senia.

Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable evening and our last party at La Senia should be long remembered by all of the Company.

(A picture taken at the party is attached.)

Incl. 1

S E C R E T

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SIG-1033-H1
JUNE 1944

SECRET

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina, Tunisia

Month of June 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

- a. Original unit
- (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February, 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December, 1940; and letter WDAGO File AG-221, dated 24 February, 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted
- (1) At beginning of month: 5 O; 101 E/M
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 E/M
 - (3) Net decrease: 2 O; 8 E/M
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 93 E/M
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) March Field, California | Date of Activation: 15 February 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 March 1941 |
| (2) Bill Rogers Field, Oklahoma City | Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 February 1942 |
| (3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia | Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1942 |
| (4) Fort Dix, New Jersey | Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 June 1942 |
| (5) RAF Station, Malesworth, England | Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 17 September 1942 |
| (6) RAF Station, Podington, England | Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 December 1942 |
| (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1944 |
| (8) El Aouina Army Air Base, Tunisia | Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944 |
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941 --28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kimmer, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944 --19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

SECRET

5225-37

S E C R E T

MONTHLY HISTORICAL STATISTICAL REPORT

JUNE 1944

MESSAGE CENTER

Outgoing messages handled totaled 1059. Incoming messages handled totaled 1179.

CRYPTOGRAPHIC SECTION

Total messages encoded were 83, composed of 6019 groups. Total messages decoded were 154, composed of 15, 478 groups.

RADIO STATION

Outgoing messages sent totaled 41, composed 1569 groups. Incoming messages received totaled 379, composed of 16,071 groups.

TELEPHONE SECTION

2900 calls per day was the average for the month. The line and maintenance crews have been snowed under with work. They laid 5000 feet of lead cable under ground and 10,000 feet of rubber overhead cable. They cleared up approximately 150 cases of trouble. Eight new installations were made during the month. Three radio aerial poles were installed.

RADIO REPAIR

Total number of items repaired was 308. This total was comprised of the following totals: command items, 121; liaison items, 47; VHF items, 43; IFF items, 25; compass items, 21; and miscellaneous items, 52. 295 repaired items were returned to the Signal Supply Depot for stock.

SIGNAL DEPOT

78 requisitions were received and serviced. 143 repair order replacements were met. 26 shipping orders were received from I ASAC and AAFSC/LTO. 20 Air Freight shipments were delivered. 6 Air Freight shipments were received. Equipment was assembled for shipment to Air Force Sub Depot Number 12, total weight was approximately 65 tons. Items most commonly issued were: radio compass units, BC-433, 11; Headsets, HS-23, 55; Microphones, T-30, 65; radio transceiver, SCR-522-A, 21; Batteries, BA-2, 118; and Batteries, BA-30, 722.


HARRY S. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

S E C R E T
HEADQUARTERS
1033rd Signal Company, Service Group
Air Force General Depot Number 2
APO 528

5 July, 1944.

SUBJECT: Unit Historical Reports.

TO : Historical Officer, Army Air Force Service Command/MTO, APO 528, U. S. Army.

1. In compliance with letter 314.7, subject as above, your headquarters, dated 15 June, 1944, this organization's report for March, April, and May is submitted.

2. These three months will serve as an average for the year prior to that time.


HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

**MONTHLY HISTORICAL STATISTICAL REPORT
MARCH 1944**

MESSAGE CENTER

1, 424 teletype messages handled; 59, 496 word groups required for their distribution.

RADIO STATION

Messages received and sent totaled 492.

TELEPHONE SECTION

2, 608 calls handled in the average day; 75,632 calls per average month.

SIGNAL DEPOT

A total of 1311 items are on hand for disposition, the following "more familiar" being disbursed in the numbers indicated: RS-33(headset) 8; flashlight TL-122-A, 230; batteries, BA-30, 4, 826; switchboard, BD-72, 2; tubes, VT-87, 4; cords, CD-307-A, 6 and solder, M-31, 10 pounds. Total equipment received for the month 585 tons, total shipped was 390 tons.

RADIO REPAIR

20 aircraft of varied types checked and serviced for operation of VHF and other radio equipment. 10 VHF sets repaired for stock in the Signal Supply Section. All of the above mentioned work was done on the base. The Radio Repair Section was frequently called upon to install and service VHF equipment aboard U. S. Naval craft in the Oran harbor and the same section unit operates and maintains the Base Theater and services movie equipment for many other units in the area.

S E C R E T

MONTHLY HISTORICAL STATISTICAL REPORT

APRIL 1944

MESSAGE CENTER

Teletype messages handled totaled 2567. 60629 groups were required for their distribution.

RADIO STATION

Messages received and sent during the month totaled 1032.

TELEPHONE SECTION

The average daily telephone calls for this month was 2800.

SIGNAL DEPOT

Total items on hand for distribution: 1850. Items most commonly issued were as follows: Headsets, RS-33, 31; Flashlights, TL-122A, 208; Batteries, BA-30, 7307; Switchboard, SD-72, 1; Tubes, VT-86, 8; Tubes, VT-147, 27; Solder, M-31, 24 pounds and Antenna weight, VT-7-A, 13.

RADIO REPAIR

Eleven aircraft of varied types, both American and French were checked and repaired during the month. The radio work was all completed at this base. The repair section continues to work at intervals on VHF equipment on Naval craft in the Oran harbor.

S E C R E T

MONTHLY HISTORICAL STATISTICAL REPORT

MAY 1944

MESSAGE CENTER

Teletype messages handled totaled 4511. Word groups required for their distribution were 419111.

RADIO STATION

1701 messages were received and sent during the month.

TELEPHONE SECTION

2700 calls per day was the average for the month.

SIGNAL DEPOT

97 requisitions were received and serviced. 372 issues were accomplished. 26 air and rail shipments were met. 222 items were issued in exchange for salvage and repair. Items most commonly issued were: Antenna Weights, WT-7-A, 25; Headset, HS-33, 21; Tubes, VT-87, 1; Tubes, VT-136, 18; Batteries, BA-30, 2922; Cord, CD-307-A, 1; and Switchboard, BD-71, 1.

RADIO REPAIR

Radio operations at La Senia were turned over to the 915th Signal Service Depot Group. Radio operations were installed and are now in service at new station. All organizational equipment was checked and minor repairs were made.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia

Month of June 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C

E V E N T S

1. The men of this organization were busily engaged in getting acquainted with the new base and in getting into the swing of their work here. Master Sergeant McDonald announces that there is enough work to keep his section very busy for many days to come. My thanks, as compiler of the Company History for these many months, go to Technician 5th Grade Hamilton, for "pinch hitting" for me as reporter during May. I offered him the job permanently but he declined the offer.
2. Private Larson, one of our teletype maintenance men returned from detached service to duty per Paragraph 4 Special Order 80, Headquarters AFCD # 2, dated 28, May 1944. Some of the men have been building side walls for their tents.
3. A large number of the men from this organization enjoyed the dance at the Enlisted Men's Club at Lallarsa. The dance was held on a patio overlooking the blue Mediterranean. Most of the men in attendance were of the opinion that the girls were a bit better looking than those who attended our dances at our last station.
4. A few of the men made a trip to the Bardo Museum this afternoon. They were very much impressed with the evidence of the old Roman civilization which once prevailed in this surrounding country.
5. Staff Sergeants Gray, Hedrick, and Murphy, personnel of a Radar team assigned to our unit, were transferred to Personnel Center #2, Canastel. Authority: letter Headquarters AAF/ETO, dated 3 June, 1944.
6. This was the day we have been waiting for so long--the invasion of the Continent of Europe. It was really a red letter day for the reporter as he returned to his Company after almost a month spent in the 46th General Hospital. Technician 3rd Grade L. D. Kilbier and I flew from Lallarsa and each place we stopped the people were very happy over the invasion news.
7. The chief topic of discussion today was the invasion. Every place containing a radio was crowded during the numerous news periods. Orders were being taken on certain Indian and Egyptian souvenirs at the Post Exchange. Quite a number of our men were observed placing orders.
8. There was a very interesting U. S. O. show at the Base Theater tonight. The magician particularly brought the house down with his slight of hand and ready wit. "Andy Hardy's Blond Trouble" showed at the Enlisted Men's Club.
9. There was much work going on in the Company Area today. Several groups were busy building side walls and floors for their tents. Private Schrimsher had a work detail cleaning debris from the area. Carpenter Smith was busily overseeing the whole activity.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
10.	Private Schrimsher was sent to the 54th Station Hospital with a badly sprained knee. "Jumbo" was covering second base on a fast double play ball. He had to stretch far toward third base to make the out and just as he completed the throw to first base the runner charged into him and knocked his knee out of socket. Schrimsher will probably be confined for several weeks.
11.	Due to the move made late in May our men were not paid until the 10th of June. There were many pay day headaches today since many men had not had the cash to try the Tunisian drinks before. Many of the men have dropped by the Orderly Room to leave deposits for Soldier's Savings.
12.	There were many requests for passes today. A soldier with money in his pocket likes to see the country on his day off. Our men have been very much interested in watching the natives irrigate with water by drawing it from a dug well with oxen. They have shown a great deal of interest, also in the Ruins of Carthage and the remains of a Lion's den reputedly built at the beginning of the downfall of Christianity in this area.
13.	Warrant Officer Frank J. Schmidt, our Signal Supply Officer, went on detached service to La Senia Air Base per Paragraph 4 Special Order 87, Headquarters AFGD # 2 dated 11 June, 1944. Mr Schmidt went for the purpose of appearing before an examining board. If Mr Schmidt passes the board, which everyone feels confident he will, he will no longer be Mr Schmidt but Lieutenant Schmidt.
14.	Second Lieutenant Arthur T. Polishuk, Technical Sergeant Hughes, Staff Sergeant Valence, T/3 Comer, T/3 Tolleneer, and T/4 Palo returned from duty to further detached service with our organization per Paragraph 2 Special Order 83, Headquarters AFGD # 2, dated 4 June, 1944.
15.	Technician 5th Grade Harold J. Bonham, who came into our organization from the 72nd Signal Company over 16 months ago was transferred to the 122nd Bomb Squadron, per Paragraph 4 Special Order 121, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 10 June, 1944. Bonham was one of the most reliable truck drivers in the outfit and his place will be hard to fill.
16.	There was an interesting softball game after evening chow tonight. Our regular club needed some practice so the Telephone Section drafted enough men from their various branches to make up a starting line up. At the end of the first inning the telephone boys held a 2 to 0 lead. No one thought anything of this since they expected the "Wrong Number" boys to blow up any moment and give the first team a lead. Pitcher Franklin kept serving his slow ball to the regulars and they kept sending "zizzling" line drivers to third baseman Hufker who nonchalantly stuck his hand up in self defense and speared the ball. The crux of the matter is that the pitcher of the regulars blew sky high and the telephone boys won the game and the free beers. There has been a great deal of good natured kidding as a result of the game.

S E C R E T

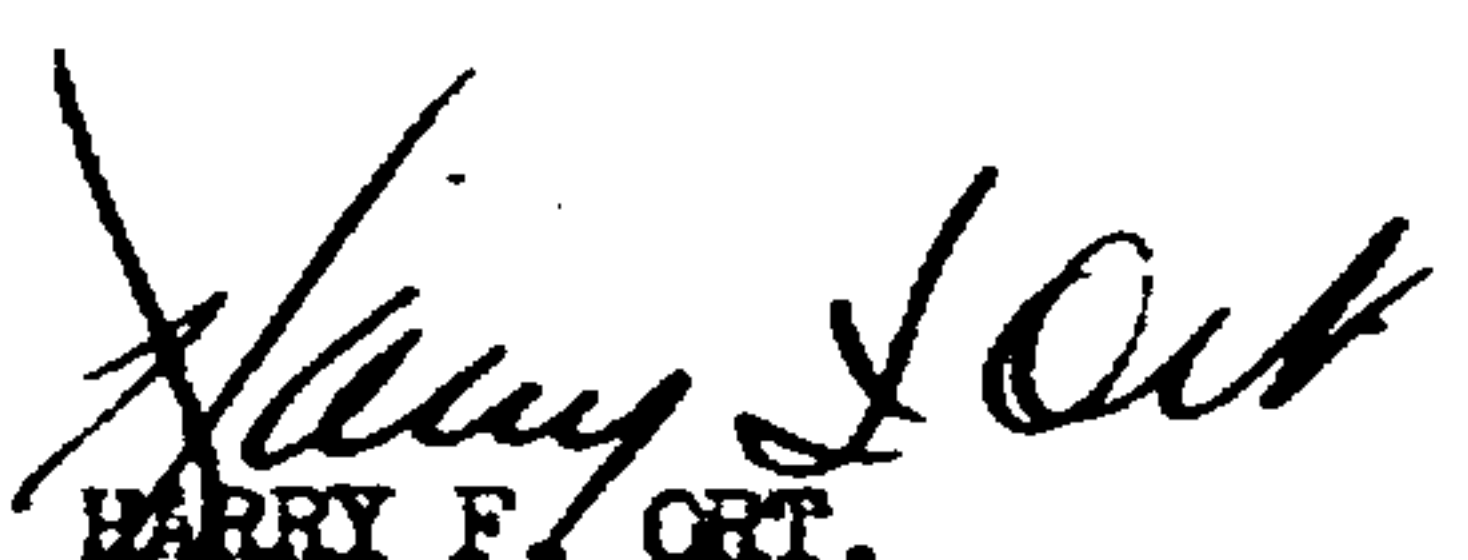
S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
17.	Private First Class Pace was transferred to AAF Engineer Command/ETO, per Paragraph 3 Special Order 121, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 10 June, 1944. Pace has been in the Company Motor Pool for 13 months. The boys will miss his hearty greeting of "well, how's she going."
18.	The picture, "See Here, Private Hargrove" was shown at the Enlisted Man's Club tonight. The picture was received by the all "G I" audience. Many scenes recall to the men, happenings in their own Army career.
19.	Warrant Officer Schmidt returned from the La Senia Air Base today. When asked how he made out with the examining board, Mr. Schmidt replied with a twinkle in his eye, "it wasn't so tough".
20.	Today some of the men of this organization made a trip to Bizerte. They really got an eye full of what bombing can do. They report that seemingly, not one house in the city is left intact. The men seemed to appreciate the liberty run. We plan to make similar trips to near-by places of interest at least once a week, if possible.
21.	Captain Harry F. Ort, our Company Commander, went on detached service to Naples on business pertaining to our organization per Paragraph 1 Special Order 92, Headquarters AFGD #2, dated 20 June, 1944.
22.	Technician 4th Grade Karich was sent to the 54th Station Hospital for treatment. Everyone was worried because Sammy is due to start for home on rotation in a very few days. Needless to say, Sammy was worried more than any one else since he has passed his twenty-fifth month over seas. Here's hoping he recovers in time to catch the boat.
23.	Captain Ort returned from Detached Service in Naples to duty. He reported that his trip was partly successful but he found that we are going to lose some very dependable enlisted men from the organization.
24.	Lieutenant George R. Northup, one of our Radar Officers, returned from detached service to duty. His team composed of Technical Sergeant Conrad R. Smith, Technician 4th Grade William C. Dene, and Technician 4th Grade Miran D. Parigian, were attached to our organization per letter order 3 Headquarters 915th Signal Company Depot (Avn), dated 29 May, 1944.
25.	Our Radar team composed of Lieutenant Froland, Technical Sergeant Morrison, Staff Sergeants Gray, Hedrick, and Murphy, and Sergeant Huntoon were released from assignment to us and assigned to MBS and placed on detached service with the 31st AAA Brigade per Paragraph 11 Special Order 167, dated 15 June, 1944, Headquarters AAFSC/ETO.
26.	Lieutenant Northup, of the Radar Section, was released from assignment with our organization and assigned to Headquarters MBS and placed on detached service 915th Signal Company Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 11 Special Order 167 Headquarters AAFSC/ETO dated 15 June, 1944.
27.	Today we received General Order 53 from Headquarters NATOUSA which listed two members of our organization among those receiving the Legion of Merit in this theater. These two men of whom we are justly proud are Warrant Officer Frank J. Schmidt, Signal Supply Officer of this base, and Technical Sergeant Wilbur B. Canfield, of the Radio Repair Section.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
28.	Technician 4th Grade Schwartz was sent to the 54th Station Hospital today with a stubborn case of sciatic trouble. Private Usher, who has been attending Radio School near Oran, returned to the organization today.
29.	Technician 5th Grade Smith, our Company Carpenter, was transferred to Hq & Hq Squadron, 89th ADG per Paragraph 16 Special Orders 128, Headquarters I ASAC, dated 20 June, 1944. "Smitty" was a good worker and a finished carpenter. All you had to do was to give him a brief discription of what you wanted built and a short time later Carpenter Smith would have the finished product turned out. It was fortunate for our organization that we were able to keep him until most of the carpentry work around our bivouac area was completed.
30.	Technician 4th Grade Althoff and Technician 5th Grade Chamberlain were sent to Pantellaria Air Base to relieve Staff Sergeant Reonar, Sergeant Gover, and Private Chasin. The fellows who were relieved seemed to have enjoyed their stay on the tiny island immensely. It was learned today that there will be a parade on the base on Independence Day, July 4. Mr Schmidt and Technical Sergeant Canfield will receive their Legion of Merit awards as a part of the ceremony. And so ends another month with a Signal Service Group in North Africa. This particular Group, incidentally, left Fort Dix just two years ago today but more of that in next month's war diary.


 HARRY F. ORT,
 Capt., Sig. C.
 Commanding.

S E C R E T

SIG-1033-H1(8)	
JULY-1944	THE ARCHIVE THE LAY TONICAL SECTION

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Sig. 1033-41

July 44

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina, Tunisia

Month of July 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

- a. Original unit
- (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February, 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted
- (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 93 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 4 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 89 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) March Field, California | Date of Activation: 15 February 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 March 1941 |
| (2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City | Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 February 1942 |
| (3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia | Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1942 |
| (4) Fort Dix, New Jersey | Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 June 1942 |
| (5) RAF Station, Malesworth, England | Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 17 September 1942 |
| (6) RAF Station, Podington, England | Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 December 1942 |
| (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1944 |
| (8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia | Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944 |
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941--28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinner, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: One (1) photograph inclosed with current Special Events.

3-3-3
2
HARRY F. ORT,
CAPT., SIG C.
COMMANDING.

SECRET

S E C R E T

**HISTORICAL STATISTICAL REPORT
1033RD SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP
JULY 1944**

MESSAGE CENTER

Outgoing messages handled totaled 858. Incoming messages handled totaled 841.

CRYPTOGRAPHIC SECTION

Total messages encoded were 61, composed of 4886 groups. Total messages decoded were 146, composed of 14,350 groups.

RADIO STATION

Outgoing messages totaled 26, composed of 1001 groups. Incoming messages totaled 337, composed of 15,302 groups.

TELEPHONE SECTION

3000 calls per day was the average for the month. Many telephones were disconnected, changed or moved and extensions installed. All trouble calls were corrected.

TELETYPE SECTION


Outgoing messages totaled 706, composed of 57,892 groups. Incoming messages totaled 545, composed of 44,690 groups. All trouble that occurred in the lines was repaired immediately. All equipment has been cleaned and checked several times during the month.

RADIO REPAIR

Total number of items repaired was 142. This total was comprised of the following totals: command items, 27; liaison items, 28; VHF items, 20; IFP items, 11; compass items, 6; and miscellaneous items, 60. 362 repaired and reclaimed items were returned to the Signal Depot for stock.

SIGNAL DEPOT

82 requisitions were received and serviced. 94 repair order replacements were met. 25 shipping orders were received from I ASAC and AAFSC/MTO. 23 Air Freight shipments were delivered. 9 Air Freight shipments were received. Railroad shipments totalled 70 tons.


HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia

Month of July 1944

Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

DAY

EVENTS

1. Just at daylight two years ago today the members of the 33rd Signal Platoon (Avn) caught their last glimpse of the Statue of Liberty and the famous skyline of New York. Many changes have taken place in the insuing two years. We have grown from the thirty-one man platoon into a Signal Company Service Group. We have worked under both the famous 8th Service Command operating from England and under the equally famous 12th Service Command and finally the AAFSC/MTO. We have had five Commanding Officers including Captain Ort, our present Commanding Officer. We have had some good times and some bad times. On the whole it has been as pleasant as one could expect. But two years is a long time to be away from home.
2. Today we had a "dry run" parade. We formed in the Company area into three platoons and marched to our appointed place between the Quartermaster Company and the 17th Supply Squadron. The whole procedure was practiced twice. Our Company did fairly good. The mass front left turn was not so smooth but otherwise everything moved smoothly.
3. The men in our organization fell out at 0730 hours for a bit of private drill in preparation for the forthcoming parade. We practiced particularly, company mass left. Technical Sergeant Canfield appeared very nervous as the time approaches for the parade. Sergeant Canfield and Warrant Officer Schmidt are to be decorated by the Reviewing Officer.
4. This was quite a day for our organization. The parade was a huge success. A full account will be found under the heading of special events. We were very proud of Mr. Schmidt and Sergeant Canfield. After the parade we had a Company formation at which time Colonel Giesecke presented thirty of our men with Good Conduct Medals. When the formation was finished Mr. Schmidt informed us there was "Bou Coup" cold beer for everyone in the Mess Hall--compliments of Mr. Schmidt and Sergeant Canfield. This was a very thoughtful gesture on their part and the men certainly enjoyed the beer. The Red Cross had sandwiches and free beer at the beach all afternoon. All in all this was a very good Independence Day for the men of Station 16.
5. This was a sort of anti climax to yesterday. Several of the men felt the effects of too much brew on the 4th. Private First Class Severe "Frenchy" Beaulieu went to sleep on the beach and someone releived him of his wrist watch and his wallet containing some sixty dollars.
6. Lieutenant Hare, of the 17th Medical Detachment, gave a formal discussion about Malaria and its control.
7. Technician 4th Grade Samuel S. Karich left the organization today on his way back to the States on rotation of personnel. Sammy served twenty-five months of overseas duty, sixteen months with our organization.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
8.	The enlisted men of this organization enjoyed a very interesting dance at LaMarsa. They commented that it reminded one of a Saturday night dance back home.
9.	Our Company was well represented at church today. In the afternoon every one who was not on shift went to the beach at LaMarsa.
10.	All personnel of the base were placed under restriction for forty-eight hours. Lack of proper military courtesy was given as the reason for the restriction.
11.	The following warning appeared in the Depot Daily Bulletin, "A report of four drownings on Sunday and six on Monday at LaMarsa makes it necessary to call attention to the stiff undertow that prevails. All orders or restrictions imposed by the life guard will be strictly adhered to". As a result of the restriction order more faces were seen in the Company Area and at the Base Red Cross than at anytime since we've been on the base.
12.	The Depot Commander put out an order making it legal to omit ties and to open the collar and to roll the sleeves above the elbow. This order was received with much enthusiasm by the men who are obliged to wear Class A uniforms all the time. The restriction on the base was extended until further notice.
13.	The restriction of all personnel to the limits of the base area was lifted at 0800 hours today. There was a big rush for passes and many men signed out for the beach.
14.	We sent a platoon of men to participate in the Bastille Day parade in Tunis. The parade was very impressive and the "Yanks" received a round hand of applause when they passed the reviewing stand. Our Captain Ort was Officer of the Day.
15.	Master Sergeant Pole and Private First Class Timney started their trip to the United States today. Both men have served a long time overseas. Timney is the first man from the original 33rd Signal Platoon to go home on rotation.
16.	The Red Cross girls, Peggy Newton and Lucy Lane Kelly, are doing a wonderful job with the Red Cross at this station. The ice cream this afternoon was really good. A very enjoyable picture was shown at the Enlisted Men's Club, "Old Acquaintances" with Bette Davis and Marion Hopkins.
17.	Today I went on sick call to have my eye checked. The doctor found, upon examination, that another pterygium has started. This means another operation on the same eye. This, of course, was discouraging news to me.
18.	Private First Class Jack C. Weaver, was assigned and joined this organization from 891st Signal Company Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 1 Special Order 193 Headquarters AAFSC/MTO dated 11 July 1944. Weaver will work in Message Center as a motor messenger.

S E C R E T


S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
19.	Technician 5th Grade Lewis of our organization went into Sick Quarters in the local dispensary. Technician 5th Grade McCannon also went from duty to sick in quarters. Corporal McCannon is one of the cable splicers on detached service from 226th Signal Operations Company.
20.	According to the Daily Bulletin, men taking civilian women to the beach must have a pass from Special Service for them. "Uncertain Glory" with Errol Flynn and Paul Lukas showed at the Enlisted Men's Club.
21.	Warrant Officer Schmidt, our Signal Supply Officer went to Naples to appear before an examining board. Corporal Lewis was released from sick in quarters to duty. Our Radar Team returned from their monthly round of check ups today. Technician 4th Grade Woods and Technician 5th Grade McCannon, two cable splicers who have been doing some splicing for us were returned to their company.
22.	A number of our friends from the 1144th Quartermaster Company stopped by to see us today. We were on the same base with these fellows for sixteen months. They are on their way to Naples. They came to see me about passes. I gave them pass blanks so they could visit Tunis.
23.	Early this morning several of the men from the 1144th Quartermaster Company came by to tell us good by. They left at 0800 hours in a B-17. About 0900 hours some of these same men came back to the Orderly Room and told us of the tragedy which overtook them. Some fifteen minutes after taking off one of the engines burst into flames. The pilot gave orders to abandon ship. After twenty-two of the thirty men had jumped, the fire suddenly extinguished itself, and seven men were brought back safely. All the other twenty-two men are presumed to be lost; since they jumped into the Mediterranean Ocean.
24.	Technician 4th Grade Bacon and Technician 5th Grade Miller were transferred to 1023rd Signal Company Service Group per Paragraph 3 Special Order 158 Headquarters I ASAC dated 19 July 1944. Both these men were excellent cryptographers and we were sorry to lose them. It has been reported that two of the men from the 1144th Quartermaster Company who baled out of the B-17 yesterday have been recovered. This report, however, has not been confirmed.
25.	Four of the Quartermaster boys have been recovered alive. Four others, found dead were buried this afternoon. Technical Sergeant Cherry, Staff Sergeant Mayhew, Technician 4th Grade Winburg, Technician 5th Grade Youngblood, Privates First Class Alonso and Duckworth, and Private Crook were attached to this organization for rations. These were the men from the 1144th Quartermaster who did not bale out of the B-17 on Sunday.
26.	Two more of the Quartermaster men were buried this afternoon. Lieutenant Haywood, Adjutant of the 1144th Quartermaster came by today and picked up his men who were attached to our organization and took them on to their destination. The four men in the hospital are doing fine.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
27.	Today our Teletype circuit was discontinued. This left our whole Teletype Section with nothing to do. Mr Horr gave the members a brief vacation after which they will be allocated to other sections until such time as we are assigned another circuit.
28.	Technician 4th Grade Sherman, radio operator, and Private First Class Swank, radio maintenance man were flown over to the island of Pantellaria to relieve Technical Sergeant Mortwedt and Technician 3rd Grade Wallace who have been working there for the past two weeks.
29.	The dance at the Enlisted Man's Club was well attended. Rumor has it that Private First Class Weaver was the outstanding jitterbugger on the floor. Two Brigadier Generals were visitors on the base today. They visited Warrant Officer Schmidt's Signal Supply Depot but did not visit the Company area.
30.	Our Commanding Officer had as his guest today, Lieutenant Colonel DeJong, Chief Signal Officer of I ASAC. Colonel DeJong was here on business pertaining to the teletype service to I ASAC from this base.
31.	Teletype service will be resumed shortly. We will have a line to Tunis where the British will relay for us on to Algiers, Oran, and Casablanca. Today was pay day and physical inspection day. Another month can be checked off of the calendar of time.


HARRY F. ORR,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

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Sheet No. 1 Special Account, 1033rd Signal Company SG El Aouina Tunisia

Month of July 1944 Prepared by Joseph Weinfurter, Corporal, Signal Corps

WOJG Frank J. Schmidt, son of Mrs Bertha Schmidt, 2148 Wellington Avenue, Chicago, Illinois has been awarded the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in North Africa". The award was presented to Mr. Schmidt on 4 July by Base Commander Colonel Martin C. Biesecke.

Presented at an Independence Day review of service command personnel, the citation reads: "Operating the first Air Force Signal Depot in Africa, Warrant Officer Schmidt, as Signal Property Officer at La Senia Air Base, received and shipped under extremely difficult conditions, over two thousand tons of signal equipment. To meet new and unforeseen operating conditions of this massive and unprecedented task, he speedily devised original and highly successful operating techniques. So successful were these innovations, that cadres of officers and enlisted men were later sent to La Senia Depot for indoctrination in the procedures which Warrant Officer Schmidt had devised."

Behind the broad outlines presented by the citation lies the story of how the 33-year old Chicagoan maintained the signal supply needs of a troop carrier command stationed in his area during the Tunisian campaign. Somehow the Signal supplies for the ground forces collaborating with the carrier command were way-laid and Warrant Officer Schmidt dispelled the emergency. Ground radio equipment and control tower units all were assembled speedily and played a vital part in the success of the campaign. High-ranking army officials, observing Mr Schmidt's work, issued letters of commendation, from which stemmed the citation and award.

A staff supply clerk for the Illinois Bell Telephone Company in civilian life, Mr Schmidt has been overseas for two years, serving in England and North Africa, chiefly as Signal Supply Officer for this organization. Inducted at Camp Grant, Illinois he was trained at Camp Crowder, Missouri and the Savannah Army Air Base, Georgia and Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was appointed Warrant Officer from the rank of Staff Sergeant 20 March 1943, while our company was at La Senia Air Base, Algeria.

(A picture of Mr Schmidt is attached.)

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 2 Special Account, 1033rd Signal Company SG El Aouina, Tunisia
Month of July 1944 Prepared by Joseph Weinfurter, Corporal, Signal Corps

The American mechanical ingenuity that has come to be tradition on all fronts of World War II was illuminated on 4 July when Tech Sergeant Wilbur B. Canfield, son of Willis Pierce Canfield, 412 Burdick Street, Stillwater, Oklahoma, was awarded the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service" in the North African campaign. The medal was presented to Canfield by Colonel Martin C. Giesecke.

The citation reads: "When an important air base had urgent need for an efficient teletype system which could not be immediately supplied, Tech Sgt. Canfield, working on his off-duty hours and utilizing odd and ends of Signal equipment, designed and constructed a well-operating switchboard. On another occasion, when a dental clinic needed an aspirator, he volunteered his services and with exceptional ingenuity and unusual technical ability supplied the needed mechanism. His devotion to duty above and beyond the usual is a credit to himself and his organization.

Sergeant Canfield's substitute switchboard maintained teletype lines in his area when ordinarily they would not have been in operation. When standard teletype switchboard equipment finally arrived, the substitute switchboard was shipped to the States and displayed in Signal Corps Schools as an example of what initiative and imagination could do under theater conditions.

Rigging up an airplane pump, a teletype motor, a tube and scattered other parts, Sgt. Canfield's aspirator operated smoothly as a suction device for dental wounds. His work as a radio technician too has received notable praise.

Sgt Canfield was formerly chief clerk for the United States Engineering Service before joining the Army. Teletype operator, teletype maintenance man, radio operator, radio technician, Sgt. Canfield, overseas two years now, has been a member of this organization for practically his entire army career. Enlisting in Oklahoma City, he served at Ft Sill and Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma, Savannah Army Air Base, Georgia, and Fort Dix, New Jersey before moving to England and then North Africa.

(A picture of the event is attached)

Enl. 1

S E C R E T



Sergeant Officer Frank J. Schmitt



Warrant Officer Frank J. Schnitt
T/Sgt. William E. Genfield
and
Color Guard.

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina, Tunisia
Month of August 1944 Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

- a. Original unit
(1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
(2) Place of organization: March Field, California
(3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
(4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter DAAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
(5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
(1) At beginning of month 3 O; 89 EM
(2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EM
(3) Net decrease: 0 O; 2 EM
(4) At end of month: 3 O; 87 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
(1) March Field, California Date of Activation: 15 February 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City Date of Departure: 30 March 1941
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey Date of Departure: 6 February 1942
(5) RAF Station, Mlesworth, England Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942
(6) RAF Station, Podington, England Date of Departure: 21 May 1942
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942
(8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia Date of Departure: 30 June 1942
Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942
Date of Departure: 17 September 1942
Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942
Date of Departure: 6 December 1942
Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942
Date of Departure: 21 May 1944
Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941--28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kimmer, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

Aug
3-3

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
CAPT., SIG. C.
COMMANDING.

54-09-51

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1013rd Signal Company, 22 El Aouina, Tunisia
 Month of August 1944 Prepared by David V. HANCOCK, 1st Lt. Sig. Co.

- a. Original unit
 - (1) Designation: 13rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter DAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
 - (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 89 EN
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EN
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 2 EN
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 87 EN
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:

(1) March Field, California	Date of Activation: 15 February 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City	Date of Departure: 30 March 1941
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia	Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey	Date of Departure: 6 February 1942
(5) RAF Station, H. Lee-orth, England	Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942
(6) RAF Station, Fodington, England	Date of Departure: 21 May 1942
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria	Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942
(8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia	Date of Departure: 30 June 1942
	Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942
	Date of Departure: 17 September 1942
	Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942
	Date of Departure: 6 December 1942
	Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942
	Date of Departure: 21 May 1944
	Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944
- e. Remarks: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Gunn, 13 February 1941—26 November 1941; 1st Lt Edward G. Johnson, 26 November 1941—4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Husted, 4 February 1942—16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinner, 16 September 1942—22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Norling, 22 February 1943—14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Runk, 14 June 1943—8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainster, 8 January 1944—19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944—to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

HARRY F. ORT,
 CAPT., SIG. CO.
 COMMANDING.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 101st Signal Company, 2d EL Aouina, Tunisia
Month of August 1944 Prepared by David V. Sizemore, 1st Sgt., Sig. Co.

- a. Original unit
 - (1) Designation: 13rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and Letter DAAG File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
 - (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 89 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 2 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 87 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:

(1) March Field, California	Date of Activation: 15 February 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City	Date of Departure: 30 March 1941
	Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia	Date of Departure: 6 February 1942
	Date of Arrival: 6 February 1942
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey	Date of Departure: 21 May 1942
	Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942
(5) RAF Station, H. Lee-orth, England	Date of Departure: 30 June 1942
	Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942
(6) RAF Station, Pottington, England	Date of Departure: 17 September 1942
	Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria	Date of Departure: 6 December 1942
	Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942
(8) EL Aouina Air Base, Tunisia	Date of Departure: 21 May 1944
	Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944
- e. MARCHES: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Gann, 13 February 1941--26 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard G. Johnson, 26 November 1941--4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John E. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinser, 16 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Frederick Norlby, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Kowak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Names and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

HARRY F. ORT,
CAPT., SIG. CO.
COMMANDING.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina, Tunisia

Month of August 1944 Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

DAY	EVENTS
1	Teletype communication was resumed today. The section was very well pleased because they did not like the prospect of being "farmed out" to work in other sections of the organization. The personnel of this section was given three days off. Corporal Foster was heard to moan; "three days off, three francs to my name, all my clothes are dirty, and my girl can't get out of the barracks."
2	It seems that the hot weather is really upon us. The past two days seem to have been the hottest of the summer. Many men were observed downing salt pills before taking a drink of water. Master Sergeant McDonald has informed us that an occasional movie can be shown for the company since movie projectors are now coming into the Radio Repair Section for repair or overhaul from the entire area including Special Services of EBS and at least one projector is in repair all the time. After repairs are made, the projector will be given a "test" run that evening with a film borrowed from the 17th Air Depot Group's Special Service Office. It is our hope that the projectors for repair will continue to come in.
3	Today "Jumbo" Schrimsher, with his Italian helper, started fixing a screen for movies. The pictures will be reflected on the north wall of our orderly room. The first step in the preparation was to plaster up the holes in the wall which still exist from the Tunisian campaign. After the holes were filled, the screen area was measured off and outlined with a six-inch black border then the whole surface of interior of the black border was painted white. This made an A-1 projection screen.
4	Tonight we had the first Company movie. The theater is of the open air variety, located immediately behind the Company Headquarters building. All the fellows were very enthusiastic because the sound was perfect and the screen worked fine. We are grateful to Special Services for loaning us film.
5	Staff Sergeant Wesley F. Reohr was relieved from assignment and transferred on rotation to Personnel Center #2, EBS for trans-shipment to the United States per Paragraph 3 Special Order 210, Headquarters AAFSC/ETO dated 28 July 1944. Wes, is the second one of the original men who came overseas in this organization to go home on rotation. "Wes" was especially eager to get home because he had a baby boy sixteen months old whom he had never seen. He left a host of friends in this organization and here's hoping he gets a good assignment after he has had his furlough at home.
6	The Daily Bulletin of AFGD #2 dated 5 August reported that Sunday will be the official day off for all personnel except a skeleton crew remaining on duty in each department. The day off for such personnel will be Monday.
7	Some of the men of our organization who are members of the "First Three Grader's Club" in Tunis were pleasantly surprised to find that they could order rum and coke last night. This is by far the best "GI" club we have ever seen.

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DAY	EVENTS
8	Today a group of our men went to the firing range for some target practice and came back with some fairly good scores. Out of a possible 50 average, Sergeant Gould scored the best for the organization with a 45. Many of the men are anxious to return to the range as they are almost positive they can turn in better scores than they did today.
9	The men of the organization know what it is to go through a Tunisian hurricane. Around nine o'clock tonight a black cloud came rolling out of the northeast accompanied by plenty of thunder and lightening. Very few of the men were in the Company area. Most of them were at the Enlisted Men's Beach, the Red Cross, or the show. Before the few men that were around could lower all the tent sides a torrent of rain with plenty of hail and wind was upon us. The wind must have reached a maximum of at least sixty miles. Believe me, there were several men who slept on wet cots. The Motor Pool tent blew down and two pyrominals were damaged.
10	We met our first opposition in the Depot ping pong tournament tonight. We won three out of five matches. Our entrants looked good and should make a strong bid for the championship. Lieutenant Polishuk returned today from detached service with AAFSC/ETO. We had a return visit from the storm. The fellows were kidding each other about being out in shorts with helmets trying to get the tent flaps to fit more snugly.
11	Lieutenant Polishuk gave a very interesting talk on his experience in Russia. He was chosen to act as interpreter for a general going on business to Russia. Lieutenant Polishuk told something of the customs and habits of the Russian people as observed by him. He description of the famous 224 gun salute in Moscow was particularly vivid. The men displayed much interest in the talk as evidenced by the many questions asked at the end of the lecture.
12	Corporal Hobart was assigned to us from 22nd Replacement Battalion per Paragraph 17 Special Order 198 Headquarters 22nd Replacement Battalion dated 27 July. Hobart is the replacement for Corporal Loberger, our first man to be sent home on rotation. Incidentally, one of the men in the organization had a letter from Loberger stating that he is now working in the Pentagon Building in Washington, D.C. as a teletype operator. Lucky fellow.
13	The Radar team returned today from their monthly check-up round. We enjoyed some delicious white grapes for chow today that Sergeant Sherman brought back from the island where he has been working for the past two weeks.
14	Technician 5th Grade Albert J. Janousek and Private Arnold W. Carson were attached to us for rations and quarters. These are two of the survivors of the B-17 tragedy which happened to the 1144th Quartermaster Company. They have been in the hospital since the tragedy and seem to be fully recovered now.
15	It was officially announced today that we will get a new switchboard. This should help our communication problem a great deal. The present board is not adequate to take care of the volume of business we handle.

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DAY	EVENTS
16	The two boys from the 1144th Quartermaster Company left to join their outfit in Italy. Here's hoping they have a lot better luck this time. Technical Sergeant Smith and Technician 4th Grade Boze were attached to us from the 296th Signal Installation Company. These boys will help to install our new switchboard. Private Schrimsher was sent back to the hospital with his wrenched knee. He spent three weeks there in June and his knee has never regained its strength.
17	Private First Class Franklin received a very nice commendation on work well done last night in the form of a letter written by Lieutenant Colonel Shaw, Commanding Officer of the 837th Engineer Battalion. The following is a quotation of the letter: "On the night of 16 August it was necessary for a long distance call to Oran to be relayed through Gallop switchboard by the operator there". "The operator then on duty, Private First Class Franklin, in relaying difficult questions and answers, performed the most efficient job as a telephone operator that I have to date observed."
18	Technician 5th Grade Chamberlain and Private Chasin were transferred to the 1085th Signal Company, SG per Paragraph 4 Special Order 164, Headquarters I ASAC dated 12 August 1944.
19	The usual Saturday night dance was held at the Enlisted Men's Club at La Marsa. The men certainly seem to enjoy these dances. For those who stayed in camp there was a good picture at the theater.
20	Today was Sunday and practically all of the men of the station were enjoying their day off. There was a very good turn out for church. After lunch all roads lead to the seashore. Special Services is doing a great deal toward making the men of this base comfortable at the beach. They furnish food for the supper meal on Sunday. Special Services is to be congratulated on their efforts.
21	Today we were able to give three forty-eight hour passes to deserving men. The new plan is to give each man a chance at a two day pass before the last of September. We plan to give out three passes on Mondays and six on Wednesdays. The men seem very enthused at the prospect.
22	Today we had a good mail call. It was the first which we have received in several days. It is good to see the men's faces light up when there is mail to hand out to them. Results made at the firing range were sent to Depot Headquarters today. Sergeant Gould's 45 was the highest mark in the company. The average for the entire organization was 30.
23	Sergeant Gover was sent on detached service to Headquarters I ASAC to work in their Cryptographic Section. This will work a hardship on our Cryptographic Section as it leaves only two men in the department. Sergeants Kasha and Streifer will do their best until Gover is returned to us.
24	We were sorry to hear that one of our local Red Cross directors, Miss Peggy Newton, was hospitalized today. Peggy has made many friends in our outfit and we all wish a speedy recovery for her.

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S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
25	Today I spent my third birthday overseas with all of them being spent in a different place. The first in London, the second in Oran, Algeria, and this one at the First Three Grader's Club in Tunis. I was greatly surprised when the band played "Happy Birthday" and every one joined in to sing. Then the French girls filed by and kissed me lightly on either cheek according to an old French custom, so they tell me.
26	Today we sent two more radio men to the island; Technicians 5th Grade Lewis and Whorton as operator and maintenance man respectively. Technician 4th Grade Tarochione and Corporal Reynolds returned from their two week's work on the island. Pete Tarochione got along swell with the natives with his Italian speaking ability and playing his accordian.
27	The telephone section was very busy today cutting over the new switchboard. The operators are going to have some bad days until everyone gets accustomed to the changes. Here to fore there were two boards, now there will only be one. Instead of saying "Outgo" or "Gallop", the operators will say "Number Please". Also, several numbers were of necessity changed so the operators will have to correct the careless person who picks up his telephone and gives the old number and finds himself connected to a totally strange number.
28	Today Colonel Giesecke, Commanding Officer of the 17th Air Depot Group, called Captain Ort, our Commanding Officer, on the telephone and congratulated him on the orderly manner in which the difficult switchboard cut-over was made. The Telephone Operations and Maintenance Sections felt very good over the whole thing.
29	Staff Sergeant Guaraldi and his work detail were busy today building new horse shoe pits for the forth coming company tournament. Much interest is being shown from the various sections in their elimination contests to determine who shall be the representatives for the round robin playoff for the Company championship.
30	Quite a number of the men of this organization took advantage of an educational tour sponsored by Special Services. The trip was to "Dugga", the cite of some of the best preserved Roman ruins in the section.
31	This was pay day and the men were really for it. It seemed that we had more "broke" men before this pay day than we've had for some time. Technician 4th Grade Schwartz, who has been in the hospital since June 26 was transferred to the detachment of patients in the 54th Station Hospital. Here's hoping we do not lose "Schwartzzy" because he is a very valuable man in the Radio Repair Section.


 HARRY F. ORT
 CAPT., SIG. C.
 COMMANDING.

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina, Tunisia
Month of September 1944 Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

- a. Original unit
(1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
(2) Place of organization: March Field, California
(3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
(4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
(5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
(1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 86 EM
(2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EM
(3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
(4) At end of month: 3 O; 86 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
(1) March Field, California Date of Activation: 15 February 1941
Date of Departure: 30 March 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941
Date of Departure: 6 February 1942
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942
Date of Departure: 21 May 1942
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942
Date of Departure: 30 June 1942
(5) RAF Station, Malesworth, England Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942
Date of Departure: 17 September 1942
(6) RAF Station, Fodington, England Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942
Date of Departure: 6 December 1942
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942
Date of Departure: 21 May 1944
(8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Gans, 13 February 1941--28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kimmer, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None


HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SS Al Aouina, Tunisia
Month of September 1944 Prepared by David V. Higgins, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

- a. Original unit
 - (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter 2-30 File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Sig. (1 Officer and 11 enlisted men)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
 - (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 96 E
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 E
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 E
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 86 E
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:

(1) March Field, California	Date of Activation: 15 February 1941
	Date of Departure: 30 March 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City	Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941
	Date of Departure: 6 February 1942
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia	Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942
	Date of Departure: 21 May 1942
(4) Fort Dix, N. J.	Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942
	Date of Departure: 30 June 1942
(5) RAF Station, Malesworth, England	Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942
	Date of Departure: 1 September 1942
(6) RAF Station, Bodington, England	Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942
	Date of Departure: 6 December 1942
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria	Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942
	Date of Departure: 21 May 1944
(8) Al Aouina Air Base, Tunisia	Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Almer P. Ganz, 13 February 1941—28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November 1941—4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Kinsted, 4 February 1942—16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinner, 16 September 1942—22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943—14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943—8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Rainzer, 8 January 1944—19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944—to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, US Al Aouina, Tunisia
Month of September 1944 Prepared by David W. Higgins, 1st Lt., Sig. Co.

- a. Original unit
 - (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Airborne)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 October 1940 and letter T/O File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transformation from 321st Signal Company, Air Bn. (1 Officer and 11 enlisted men)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
 - (1) At beginning of month: 3 O: 96 E
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 E
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 E
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O: 86 E
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:

(1) March Field, California	Date of Activation: 15 February 1941
	Date of Departure: 30 March 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City	Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941
	Date of Departure: 6 February 1942
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia	Date of Arrival: 6 February 1942
	Date of Departure: 21 May 1942
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey	Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942
	Date of Departure: 30 June 1942
(5) RAF Station, Walsworth, England	Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942
	Date of Departure: 1 September 1942
(6) RAF Station, Bodington, England	Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942
	Date of Departure: 6 December 1942
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria	Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942
	Date of Departure: 21 May 1944
(8) Al Aouina Air Base, Tunisia	Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 15 February 1941—28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard G. Johnson, 28 November 1941—4 February 1942; 2nd Lt Joan H. Minsted, 4 February 1942—16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinzer, 16 September 1942—22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943—14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943—3 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Sainser, 3 January 1944—19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944—to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

Harry F. Ort
Harry F. Ort,
Capt., Sig. Co.
Commanding.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary 1033rd Signal Company, SC El Aguias, Tunisia

Month of September 1944 Prepared by David V. Biggers, 1st Sgt., Sig. C.

DAY	EVENTS
1	Today we were officially informed that trips to the Rome and Capri Rest Camps are forth coming. Our organization will be allowed to send two men the first week and one man each week there after.
2	Master Sergeant McDonald returned from detached service with the 57th Station Hospital where he installed a movie set-up for them.
3	First Sergeant Biggers and Technical Sergeant Canfield were selected from this organization to make the trip to Rome and Capri. They left this base at 0900 hours.
4	A large number of our men have had severe head colds recently. Sergeants Martindale and Steinhols were confined to quarters as a result of colds.
5	Our Commanding Officer, Captain Ort, was duty officer. He reported a very quiet tour of duty. A large number of our boys enjoyed the movie "Follow The Boys" with an all star cast shown at the Enlisted Men's Club, La Marsa.
6	There was a Casbah Tour last night sponsored by the Red Cross. Only twenty men could go but those who were lucky enough to make it said that it was very interesting to see a bit of Arabic night life.
7	Several more men have been ill with colds. Corporals Rennert and Hobart have been confined to quarters for treatment of their colds. Much interest is being displayed by the men of this organization in horse shoe pitching. There is a movement on foot to organize teams in the different sections and have an organizational tournament.
8	Technicians 5th Grade Lewis and Whorton returned from their two weeks tour of duty on Pantellaria. Both these men enjoyed their stay and were a bit reluctant to return to the mainland. Technician 4th Grade Althoff and Private First Class Burnside relieved them.
9	The Saturday night dance at the Enlisted Men's Club at La Marsa was well attended. Quite a number of the men of this organization have been enjoying membership in the "First Three Grader's Club" in Tunis.
10	Sergeants Biggers and Canfield returned from their visit to the Rest Camps in Rome and Capri. They were very enthusiastic about the trip. They both agreed that this trip is about the greatest thing the Army has to offer. They displayed many souvenirs and reported that it is a man's own fault if he doesn't have fun on this trip. Technical Sergeant Baker left on the trip for this week.
11	All personnel of this base were warned to wear head gear when going to and from the Army Exchange. The picture at the Enlisted Men's Club in La Marsa was "Jack London" with Michael O'Shane.

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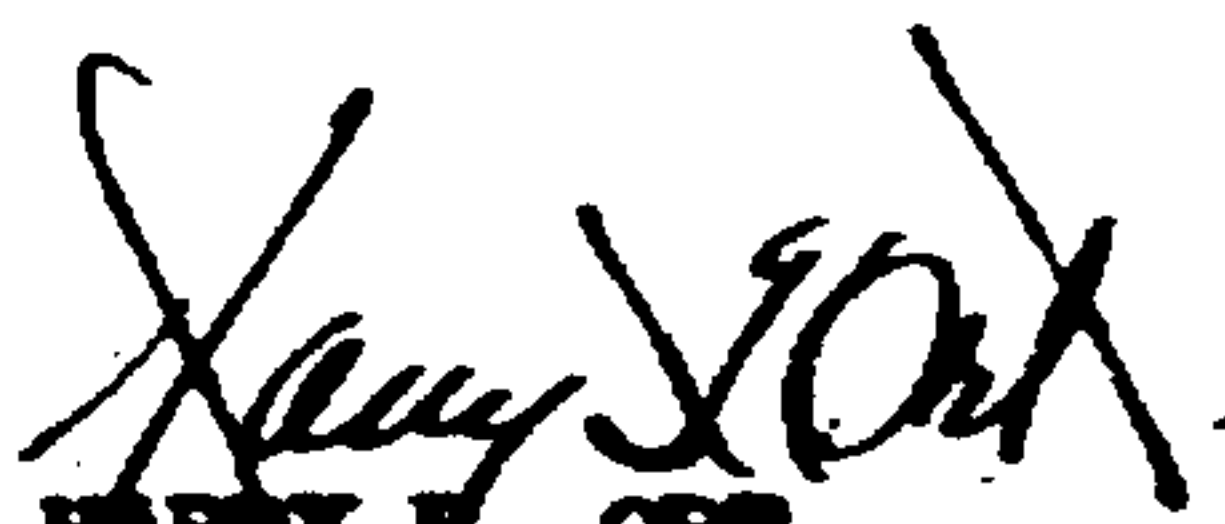
S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
12	Technician 4th Grade Brans was released from quarters after being treated for a slight case of dysentery. The medical officers report several new cases of dysentery and made an appeal to all men to be very careful and help get it under control before it spreads further.
13	Captain Ort was Officer of the Day. The first game for the Tunisian Baseball Championship was won by the Navy team from Bizerte. The Navy aggregation was sparked by Red Scharpples, the same boy we remember so well from the Basketball Championship games played at La Senia last April.
14	Technical Sergeant Green of the 1081st Signal Company, who has been checking our switchboard for the past few days returned to his station. Sergeant Green pronounced our switchboard alright. "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" starring Betty Grable was the movie.
15	Technical Sergeant Snider was sent on detached service to Pantellaria for a week. Effective today all trip tickets for transportation of civilians in government vehicles must be signed by the Depot Transportation Officer.
16	The Company Horse Shoe tournament is gaining more interest each day. As the second round draws to a close the team representing the Switchboard Operators is ruling; favorite closely followed by Telephone Repair and Teletype. The most closely contested game to date was between the two telephone entries. The operators had to go the full seven games to take the contest four games to three.
17	In the recent ping-pong tournament sponsored by Special Services, our entries won second place. We were beaten in the final contest by the 17th Air Depot Group's Repair Squadron. The men representing the 1033rd were Corporals Weinfurter and Foster, Staff Sergeant Guaraldi, and Sergeant Basile.
18	Technical Sergeant Baker returned from his visit to the Rest Camps at Rome and Capri. He reported a great time. Master Sergeant McDonald left for the same trip today.
19	There was a USO Show at the Enlisted Men's Beach. The men, particularly, enjoyed the Master of Ceremonies and the sweet singing of Helen Young, former vocalist for Johnny Long's Band.
20	Quite a number of men turned out for the horse shoe match between the Telephone Repair and Teletype Section. The former team took the match four games to two.
21	The Company Area looked like a playground back home after evening chow today. One group of men was passing a football around with great abandon and eventually started a touch-football game. Another group was enjoying a hotly contested volley ball game. Both horse shoe courts were engaged with a waiting list of players acting as spectators. It's really good to see so many men interested in sports. A great deal of the credit goes to our Supply Officer, Mr. Schmidt, for procuring an abundance of athletic equipment and much credit is due Technician 5th Grade Hamilton who lends much of his leisure time to planning and encouraging participation in sports.
22	Sergeants Snider and Althoff, and Private First Class Barnside returned from Pantellaria. Technician 4th Grade Sherman and Private First Class Swank were sent on their regular tour of duty to the Island.

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DAY	EVENTS
23	Captain Harry F. Ort made a business trip to Headquarters I ASAC in Casablanca.
24	Sergeants Hughes, Valence, and Tollenaar of the Radar Team were sent on detached service to Italy. Master Sergeant McDonald returned from his furlough at Rome and Capri and Technical Sergeant Mortvedt left on his furlough to the same places.
25	The Depot Bulletin informed us that in the carbine firing on the range this week several prizes will be awarded by Depot Special Services. A \$25 War Bond will be given to the high scorer in each lot of two hundred and thirty enlisted men. We have several good marksmen who should give some keen competition for the prizes.
26	Corporal Whorton has completed the wiring of the Company Area which before was very poor. Corporal Whorton and Private First Class Swank set new poles, used rubber cable and as a result our area is free of fire hazards from the lighting installations.
27	Private First Class Byrne with the help of some PW's has done a remarkable job of beautifying the area. He has constructed gravelled walks bordered by white stones neatly placed in rows. "Cy" has built two very good horse shoe courts, a volley ball and basketball court. His latest accomplishment was winterizing the tents by covering the side walls with tarred paper.
28	Sergeants Schroyer and Hennkens, Technicians 5th Grade Cunningham and Ingram, and Private Sewell left for Oren to deliver some radio vans for the Supply Depot. Private Schrimsher was released from the 57th Station Hospital today after spending forty-five days there but his knee injury is far from well.
29	Technical Sergeant Yockubisin was sent to Pantellaria for a week to be in charge of the enlisted men working there. Technician 3rd Grade Killian and Private First Class Beaulieu were sent to the 57th Station Hospital for treatment.
30	Corporals Szachowicz and Novak, representing the Telephone Operators, won the double horse shoe tournament. These men each received a carton of cigarettes for his efforts and skill. There was so much interest in the double tournament that we immediately launched a singles tournament to discover the one best pitcher in the company. We had our regular semi-monthly physical inspection by Lieutenant Hare and had pay call immediately after; thus closing our twenty-seventh month overseas.


HARRY F. ORT,
CAPT., SIG. C.
COMMANDING.

S E C R E T

THE ARCHIVES THE AAF HISTORICAL SECTION		OCT-1944	SIG-1033-H11(2)
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 Oct 1944

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina, Tunisia.
Month of October 1944 Prepared by Robert L. McDonald, M/Sgt., Sig. C.

- a. Original unit
- (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men.)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 86 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 2 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 88 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) March Field, California | Date of Activation: 15 February 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 March 1941 |
| (2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City | Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 February 1942 |
| (3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia | Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1942 |
| (4) Fort Dix, New Jersey | Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 June 1942 |
| (5) RAF Station, Malesworth, England | Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 17 September 1942 |
| (6) RAF Station, Podington, England | Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 December 1942 |
| (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1944 |
| (8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia | Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944 |
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941--28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kimmer, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

James E. Hart CWO
HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

5646-14

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary 1033rd Signal Company, SG El Aouina, Tunisia.

Month of October 1944 Prepared by Robert L. McDonald, M/Sgt., Sig. C.

DAY	EVENTS
1	Warrant Officer Schmidt and Staff Sergeant Kaminsky left this morning for their furloughs in Rome and Capri. Both left with bulging pocketbooks with intentions, apparently, of some rather extensive souvenir purchases. From previous personal experience, I'm sure they won't be disappointed. Warrant Officer Horr left this morning on detached service for official business with AAF/MTO in Naples. He left on the same plane with Mr. Schmidt and Sergeant Kaminsky but will not be enjoying a furlough with them.
2	Technical Sergeant Mortvedt returned today from his Rome-Capri tour. He reported an enjoyable trip even though he was forced to lay over a day at Naples because of bad weather.
3	Although our Supply Sergeant made the issue of woolens several days ago, they became the official uniform today. Those who had not had a complete issue were required to wear ties with their khakis; this being the first time ties have been required since the relaxation of uniform regulations early last summer. "OD's are quite welcomed, however, since the weather has a very definite fall "tang" in it.
4	Private First Class "Frenchy" Beaulieu was returned from the station hospital today. Corporal Szachowicz won the Company singles horse-shoe tournament and was awarded a carton of cigarettes. A "Last Four Grader's" Club was opened officially tonight in Tunis sponsored by the 17th Air Depot Group. Thirty-two men from this organization joined and paid their five hundred franc entrance fee. Technician 4th Grade Cottrell of Radio Repair constructed a small P.A. system for the club. Technician 5th Grade Hamilton represents the 1033rd in the Clubs official activities.
5	Warrant Officer Horr and Staff Sergeant Gulley were appointed Company Safety Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer respectively. Master Sergeant McDonald went into the 57th Station Hospital this morning for treatment.
6	Warrant Officer Horr returned today from Naples. Technical Sergeant Yockubisin who has been on Pantellaria for the past week with Technician 4th Grade Sherman and Private First Class Swank who have been there for the past two weeks, returned to the Company today. They were relieved by Technician 5th Grade Lewis and Private First Class Plate.
7	Privates Iserhott and Middlemas received promotions to the grade of Private First Class today. The men who drove trucks through to AFS #12 returned to the organization today.
8	Our Supply Sergeant, Staff Sergeant Falton started off on his trip to Rome this morning. Technical Sergeant Hughes, Staff Sergeant Valence and Technician 3rd Grade Tollenaar, men of the attached radar team, returned to the Company today from detached service with the 1095th Signal Company.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
9	Telephone maintenance men and operators requisitioned by ATO to replace our telephone maintenance and operator personnel arrived today and started the task of learning the system set up on the base by us. They will ultimately replace our men, who will, in the meantime, stand by to assist in advisory and supervisory capacity.
10	Warrant Officer Schmidt and Sergeant Kaminsky finally got back from their Rome trip. He had nearly given them up for lost but they made it back safe and sound after the weather finally permitted them to fly. They didn't return empty handed. The places they visited are no doubt quite a few dollars richer because of them. Sergeant McDonald returned to duty from the hospital. Master Sergeant Jackson and Sergeant Clark were assigned and joined our organization today per Paragraph 14, Special Order 268, Headquarters 22nd Replacement Battalion dated 5 October 1944. Sergeant Jackson is a telephone maintenance man and Sergeant Clark is a teletype operator.
11	An epidemic of Bubonic plague seems imminent and the medics have started inoculations against the dread disease. Our organization was given its first of two shots this morning. Captain Hare, Medical Officer, gave a short lecture on methods of safeguarding against exposure and a "rat campaign" is already under way in the company area. "Cy" Byrne and his crew of Italians gave the rats a taste of carbon-monoxide by running a hose from a vehicle's exhaust underneath each tent floor. Although it's a very serious business, the humorous aspect of this particular treatment was not absent. It was quite comical to watch the process with Cy operating the hose and a person stationed at each corner of the tent with a bat in his hand in case a rat decided to make a run for it into cleaner air. Private James Schrimsher went to the range today for carbine practice and shot a score of 122 out of a possible 125 points. Schrimsher won a \$25 war bond for highest score of firing that was done at a range of 100 yds. from prone and sitting positions.
12	Today we were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Lieutenant Mainzer, a former Commanding Officer of this Company. During his duty with this Company, the Lieutenant made a large number of friends and was more than ordinarily welcomed. He announced that he will be with us for a few days. He is now assigned to Headquarters, I ASAC.
13	A trip to Kairouan, Tunisia, scheduled for this Sunday, was announced by the Red Cross. Kairouan is a famous rug-making center as well as one of the four "meccas" for those of the Moslem faith. There are a number of large and very ancient mosques in the city which are really beautiful. Most of them date back to 600 AD. Fifteen men from our company have signed up to go.
14	Lieutenant Mainzer left today to return to his organization. The enlisted men's dance is being held tonite at the Red Cross club in Tunis. The EM Club at La Marsa has been closed down for the season which is regretted by many in this unit. It provided much entertainment during the summer with its beach, movies, and Saturday night dances.
15	This has been a quiet Sunday. The boys returning from the Kairouan trip reported an interesting and enjoyable time. The Red Cross has announced a forthcoming pet contest to be held here at El Aouira tomorrow evening. The 1033rd will no doubt be well represented. We have quite a menagerie.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY

EVENTS

- 16 The Red Cross pet contest went off well and all entries from the Company won some prize or recognition. The men at the transmitter borrowed an Arab's donkey and brought along a pet mouse named "Oscar". Several dogs from the Company were entered. A Brazilian honey bear, an entry from another unit won the prize as "most original" entry and topped off the evening by getting into the mouse's cage and making a meal of poor "Oscar".
- 17 Sergeant Falton finally got back from his furlough and Sergeant Martindale got away at long last. It seems that the weather was too poor for flying again and held up the plane in Italy. Volley ball has evoked so much interest in the Company that another court is required and will be under construction soon.
- 18 Increased restriction and off limits areas were announced today in order to protect troops from exposure to bubonic plague. The Tunis Casbah, which would undoubtedly be a hotbed of infection in the event of an epidemic, was declared strictly off limits and all sight-seeing trips were banned. The second and last immunization shot was given all members of the Company today. The Company's basketball team played an exhibition game with the 1631st Engineers at the Red Cross Club in Tunis. Our team won with a score of 25 over the Engineer's 24.
- 19 The telephone maintenance section, in conjunction with the local British Signals, is now making a study of French underground cables located on the base. With permission of the French authorities, they will repair and place into service existing cables thereby expanding the present cable facilities and possibly eliminating the greater part of the necessary overhead wire. Three French women were added to the staff of switchboard operators at the base exchange. Their English is surprisingly good and it is apparent that they will, in a comparatively short time, make good operators. Our operators are instructing them in the handling of calls as well as polishing up their English.
- 20 First Sergeant Dave Biggers was relieved from duties today and left this morning for the 1st Replacement Depot for trans-shipment to the States. Dave was as excited as a small child and we can't blame him a bit. Almost two and a half years overseas is enough to make anyone a bit anxious to get back. We'll all miss Dave as he was a good "top-kick" and a swell fellow. Master Sergeant McDonald will act as First Sergeant until a replacement arrives. Sergeant Mortweat, Corporal Richard, and Private Usher went on detached service to Pantellaria this morning to relieve Technician 5th Grade Lewis and Private First Class Plate.
- 21 It has been a quiet Saturday on the Base but many of the boys are making merry tonite at the Enlisted Men Clubs in town. The "Club Seventeeners" for the last four grades is especially popular at this time.
- 22 Our attached Radar team left this morning, bag and baggage. Lieutenant Polishuk and his men are driving to Oran and will embark there for Italy.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
23	Captain Ort gave the Company a short talk this evening explaining the Army Air Force Aid Society; its purposes and aims, as well as full particulars regarding memberships. Over half of the Company made immediate pledges.
24	Corporal Reynolds was today reduced to grade of Private as the result of a Summary Court Martial held at Depot Headquarters.
25	Technicians 5th Grade Gragg and Stewart were placed on detached service at AFSD #12. They are driving trucks through to Gran for Base Transportation and will be gone for about a week.
26	Many of our men attended the Sunday morning church service at the Base Chapel. Several of the men went on different sight-seeing trips while others spent the day at "Club Seventeeners".
27	The Company basketball team defeated EBS Headquarters team 27 to 24 at the Fed Cross in Tunis. Corporal Reinfurter was the high scorer for the winners with nine points.
28	A personal inspection of all men in the organization was conducted this morning by Captain Peyton of the 2488 Quartermaster Company. The inspection was made in full uniform and the results were gratifying.
29	This evening Private First Class Beaulieu jumped off a truck and broke a bone in the lower part of his leg. Fortunately, it is only a simple fracture but Beaulieu will be hospitalized for forty-five days.
30	Special Order Number 292 dated 19 October 1944 from Headquarters AAPSC/ITO informed us that First Sergeant Jim A. Church, assigned to the 2488 Quartermaster Truck Company (Avn) is transferred to this Company as replacement for First Sergeant Biggers, who left ten days ago on rotation orders.
31	The men were paid off immediately following the physical inspection. Captain Hare, the Medical Officer making the inspection, gave a short lecture to the men, a part of which was given to some very nice compliments of the Company's record of zero of VD cases for the past six months. First Sergeant Jim A. Church joined the organization today being transferred from the 2488 Quartermaster Truck Company.

for James E. Hart CMC
HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

S E C R E T

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519-1133-111

OUTLINE HISTORY

1033rd SIGNAL COMPANY, SG

NOVEMBER 1944

SECRET

519-1133-111

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History, 1033rd Signal Company, SG Naples, Italy
 Month of November 1944 Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant

- a. Original unit
 - (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men.)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
 - (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 88 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 88 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:

(1) March Field, California	Date of Activation: 15 February 1941
	Date of Departure : 30 March 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City	Date of Arrival : 2 April 1941
	Date of Departure : 6 February 1942
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia	Date of Arrival : 8 February 1942
	Date of Departure : 21 May 1942
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey	Date of Arrival : 22 May 1942
	Date of Departure : 30 June 1942
(5) RAF Station, Molesworth, England	Date of Arrival : 15 July 1942
	Date of Departure : 17 September 1942
(6) RAF Station, Podington, England	Date of Arrival : 17 September 1942
	Date of Departure : 6 December 1942
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria	Date of Arrival : 23 December 1942
	Date of Departure : 21 May 1944
(8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia	Date of Arrival : 25 May 1944
	Date of Departure : 28 November 1944
(9) Naples, Italy	Date of Arrival : 3 December 1944
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following)
 Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941--28 November 1941;
 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kimmer, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs; Two photographs of a Company party.


 Harry F. Ort
 Capt., Sig. C.
 Commanding

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

W A R D I A R Y
1033rd SIGNAL COMPANY, SG

NOVEMBER 1944

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary

1033rd Signal Company, SG

Naples, Italy

Month of November 1944

Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant...Sig. C.

DAY	EVENTS
1	Beginning another month overseas, the 1033rd is at work preparing the Company Area for the winter months. Depot Supply has issued aircraft heating units for tent heating. Technician 5th Grade Cunningham, Stewart and Gragg are installing the units.
2	Private Usher was admitted to the 57th Station Hospital today with stomach trouble. The Company basketball outfit was defeated by 17th Headquarters Squadron 28-25 in the last three minutes of play.
3	Sergeant Wallace and Corporal Lewis relieved Sergeant Mortwedt and Corporal Richard for duty at the radio station on Pantelleria.
4	Our men spent another Saturday night at the clubs in Tunis. The men are well pleased with the accommodations at the First Three Graders and 7 teeners' clubs. Mr. Horr and five of our men came back from a hunting trip where they killed a large wild boar. Technician 5th Grade Fowler fired the deadly shot. Private "Jumbo" Schrimsher skinned and cleaned the animal.
5	Staff Sergeant Kaminsky was sent on detached service to Hq & Hq Squadron, I ASAC per Paragraph 5 Special Order 204 dated 30 October 1944 Hqs I ASAC. Captain Ort and Staff Sergeant Gully left this morning to spend a weeks furlough in Rome and Capri. Technician 3rd Grade Washa arrived back from his furlough which he enjoyed very much.
6	A message from I ASAC informed us that Captain Ort was to be transferred out of the organization. Captain Ort is to be transferred to the 1085th Signal Company and their Commanding Officer, Captain Hopkins is to be transferred to our Company. After supper, First Sergeant Church held a meeting of the Company to nominate a committee to plan a farewell party for Captain Ort. W/O Schmidt was appointed chairman and five enlisted men were selected to help him.
7	Mr. Schmidt held a meeting of the party committee and it was decided to hold this party at the Signal Depot one week from today. We are to eat the wild boar the men killed on the hunting trip and Sergeant Sopinski promised a fine meal.
8	Our basketball team suffered another defeat tonight at the hands of the 417th Quartermaster Platoon. The score was 30-26. It seems that our ballplayers play good ball up to the last few minutes of the contest.
9	Still fixing our area for the winter. Cy Byrne and his POW'S completed a wash room which will come in very handy. First Sergeant Church went to Tunis this morning to make an estimate on straw to make mattresses for the men.
10	The men are still having some real good volley ball games at noon time and after duty hours. We received more Special Service reading material today which was placed in the library in our Day Room.
11	Private First Class Iserhott of the Crypt Section was sent to Pantelleria. Private Usher returned from the hospital today feeling much better than when he entered.
12	Captain Ort and Staff Sergeant Gully returned from their furlough. Both of them enjoyed the well-planned trip to Italy. Staff Sergeant Stoeber left this morning to spend a week in Rome and Capri. All the men who have gone on furlough have returned with some very nice souvenirs.
13	Tonight we had the party which we have been planning since hearing of Captain Ort's transfer. A delicious meal of wild boar, several vegetables, fruit, cake and coffee was prepared by Sergeant Sopinski and his kitchen staff. A real treat to all the men was American beer which they surely enjoyed and also the mixed drinks of rum and coca-cola. Entertainment was furnished by Sergeants Sherman and Tarochione playing the piano and accordion respectively. Guests for the evening included Major Clark, Lieutenants Neymschoff and Anderson of the 17th

S E C R E T


S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
	Air Depot Group and Miss Carrie Young of the American Red Cross. Photographs which are enclosed were taken by Sergeant Griffiths of Base Photo. Everyone seemed to have had an enjoyable evening.
14	Several men had slight headaches this morning as a result of last night's party. Some of the men got hold of a rumor that our Company is to move. A rumor such as that always lifts the morale of our men as they enjoy traveling.
15	Captain Raymond J. Hopkins of the 1085th Signal Company arrived this afternoon. Captain Hopkins was assigned to this organization per Paragraph 2 Special Order 206, Hqs I ASAC dated 4 November 1944.
16	Every week, the basketball team gets the jitters in the last few minutes of play and comes out on the short end of the score. Tonight it was the ATC Engineers that defeated our basketball team to the tune of 26-25. This game was played without Corporal Weinfurter who has been playing good ball all this season. Weinfurter turned his ankle in practice yesterday and was unable to take part in tonight's contest.
17	Captain Ort left this morning to take command of the 1085th Signal Company per Paragraph 2 Special Order 206 Hqs I ASAC dated 4 November 1944. Sergeant Wallace returned from Pantelleria. Corporal Lewis remained at duty on the island and Corporal Whorton was sent out to do the radio maintenance work.
18	Sergeant Wallace left this morning on furlough to Rome and Capri and Sergeant Stoeber returned from his week in Italy. This being a very nice Sunday, many of the men took short trips to places of interest near the base.
19	An inspection of the tents was held this morning by Captain Hopkins, Mr. Horr, and Sergeant Church. A few men were short some mess utensils which are to be procured from our Supply Sergeant. The inspection was rated as excellent.
20	We received another message from I ASAC today. The message informed us that the Special Order which transferred Captain Ort to the 1085th Signal Company and Captain Hopkins to our organization was rescinded. Captain Hopkins is to be placed on detached service with the 1081st Signal Company.
21	It is another sad story in regards to our basketball team. Our team and the 17th Repair outfit have become "drinking buddies" at "Club Seventeeners" and the game between the two organizations was said to be a better contest by the "bar-room coaches". The prognosticators weren't far from wrong as the Repairmen edged out the Signalmen by a 26-23 score. This was a good, clean, and hard fought game by both teams. Both outfits went to Club Seventeeners after the contest and bought each other drinks.
22	Captain Ort came back to the Company today per authority TNY Message from I ASAC dated 20 November 1944 rescinding I ASAC S.O. 206. Staff Sergeant Kaminsky came back with Captain Ort from detached service with Hq & Hq Squadron, I ASAC.
23.	Another Thanksgiving overseas and it was a very enjoyable one. A very fine dinner was prepared by the kitchen personnel. Our boys really enjoy big meals, especially turkey with all the "trimmings". Captain Ort held a meeting of the entire organization at noon time and informed us that beginning tomorrow we must prepare to move. This was good news to our men as they figure they have been in North Africa too long. After the meeting there was rum and coca-cola for all the men. The majority of the Company went to either Club Seventeeners or the First Three Grader's Club in Tunis to complete a nice holiday.
24	Details were formed to take our tents down and to pack our equipment. Our living quarters will be quite crowded now as we will all be living in three small buildings until we move. Corporals Lewis and Whorton returned from Pantelleria and there were no men sent to the island. The radio operators and repairmen who were sent to Pantelleria while the organization has been at El Aouina Air Base, enjoyed their tour of duty there very much.

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DAY	EVENT
25	Captain Hopkins left the organization this morning per authority TWX message from I ASAC dated 20 November 1944 rescinding Paragraph 2 Special Order 206 dated 4 November 1944 Hqs I ASAC. We began loading the ship which we will travel on with our equipment. Today we started to eat at the mess hall of Hqs 1260th AAF Base Unit, ATC.
26	Mr. Horr and Sergeant Gillespie left this morning as an advanced detail to Naples, Italy per VOCO AFGD Number 2. Sergeant Wallace returned this afternoon from furlough at Rome and Capri.
27	Today we had plenty of work. Cleaned up the area and our organizational buildings. We had to work late at night to finish loading our equipment on the ship.
28	After six months of being assigned to AFGD Number 2 at El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia we departed the station in late morning and boarded the S.S. Michael J. Stone at the harbor of Tunis. Departed Tunis at 1600 hours, destination Naples, Italy.
29	Some of our men aren't very good seamen as they were seasick. For being aboard ship we are having some real good meals. We had a movie on ship tonight, "Bathing Beauty" with Red Skelton and Esther Williams.
30	Today we arrived at the harbor of Augusta, Sicily, and going to remain here until sometime tomorrow. Another movie tonight called "Up in Mabel's Room". This month we end our diary aboard the S.S. Michael J. Stone anchored in the harbor of Augusta, Sicily.


 HARRY F. ORT,
 Capt., Sig. C.
 Commanding.



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SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

1033rd SIGNAL COMPANY, SG

NOVEMBER 1944

SECRET

S E C R E T

Headquarters
1033RD SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP
AIR FORCE GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 3
APO 528

5 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Administrative Data.

1. Present Designation of Unit:
1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn)
2. Activation of Unit:
Activated 15 February 1941 as 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base at March Field, California per WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941 in accordance with T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940. General Order Number 3 Par 4, Hqs GHQ Air Force, Langley Field, Virginia dated 8 February, 1941.
3. Redesignations:
10 September 1942 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base redesignated 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) per Authority ETOUSA Cablegram dated 10 September 1942. 18 May 1943 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) redesignated 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) per WD letter 320.2 Subject Redesignation of Certain Units, dated 14 February 1943 per MATUSA letter AG 322.07/105 AM dated 13 May 1943.
4. Reorganization:
February 1943 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) reorganized per Authority TX message from 12th Air Force to II Air Service Area Command in accordance with T/O 11-237 dated 1 July 1942.
5. Assignments:
 - a. 15 July 1942 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base assigned to the 37th Service Group. (Order number not available.)
 - b. 23 December 1942 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) assigned to 11th Air Depot Group per Paragraph 2 Special Order 37 II Area Service Command (Prov) dated 7 February 1943.
 - c. 15 June 1943 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to 38th Air Depot Group. (Order number not available.)
 - d. 12 September 1943 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to 19th Air Depot Group. (Order number not available.)
 - e. 19 May 1944 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) assigned to the 17th Air Depot Group per Movement Order Number 46, Hqs I Air Service Area Command dated 19 May 1944.
 - f. 3 December 1944 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to AFGD 3 per General Order 102, Hqs AAFSC/LTO dated 22 November 1944.
6. Commanding Officers:
 - a. 2nd Lt John B. Winsted--February 1942 to 17 September 1942 par 9 SO 131 Hqs Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma dated 4 February 1942.
 - b. 2nd Lt Robert J. Kemmer--17 September 1942 to 22 February 1943 par 2 SO 85 Hqs 8th Air Force dated 9 September 1942.

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- c. Captain Fredrick Herlihy--22 February 1943 to 9 June 1943 par 4 SO 51 Hqs II Air Service Area Command dated 22 February 1944.
- d. Captain Otto J. Nowak--9 June 1943 to 8 January 1944 par 11 SO 139 Hqs XII Air Force Service Command dated 3 June 1943.
- e. 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer--8 January 1944 to 19 February 1944 par 33 SO 6 Hqs AAFSC/MT0 dated 6 January 1944.
- f. Captain Harry F. Ort--19 February 1944 to date par 5 SO 33 Hqs I ASAC dated 17 February 1944.

7. Movements:


- a. 30 June 1942 unit departed staging area at Fort Dix, N.J.
- b. 30 June 1942 unit arrived New York Port of Embarkation.
- c. 1 July 1942 unit sailed from New York Port of Embarkation.
- d. 1 July 1942--15 July 1942 unit at sea.
- e. 15 July 1942 unit disembarked at Greenock, Scotland.
- f. 15 July 1942 unit proceeded by rail to RAF Station, Molesworth, England.
- g. 17 September 1942 unit proceeded by truck to RAF Station, Podington, England.
- h. 6 December 1942 unit proceeded by rail to Liverpool, England.
- i. 7 December 1942 unit boarded English Army Transport Ship.
- j. 7 December 1942 to 22 December 1942 unit at sea.
- k. 23 December 1942 unit disembarked at Mers El Kebir and proceeded by truck to La Senia, Algeria.
- l. 21 May 1944 unit departed La Senia Air Base by truck convoy.
- m. 26 May 1944 unit arrived El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia.
- n. 28 November 1944 unit departed El Aouina Air Base.
- o. 28 November 1944 unit disembarked at Tunis, Tunisia.
- p. 28 November 1944--2 December 1944 unit at sea.
- q. 3 December 1944 unit arrived Naples, Italy.

8. Strength:	O	H/O	E/M
31 July 1942	1	0	32
30 September 1942	1	0	32
31 October 1942	1	0	32
30 November 1942	1	0	32
31 December 1942	1	0	32
31 January 1943	1	0	31
28 February 1943	1	0	36
31 March 1943	2	0	51
30 April 1943	3	0	71
31 May 1943	3	1	75
30 June 1943	3	1	82
31 July 1943	4	1	78
31 August 1943	6	1	89
30 September 1943	7	1	92
31 October 1943	7	1	91
30 November 1943	7	1	96
31 December 1943	5	1	103
31 January 1944	6	1	86
29 February 1944	5	1	89
31 March 1944	4	1	101

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S E C R E T

8. Strength (cont'd)	<u>0</u>	<u>E/W</u>	<u>E/W</u>
30 April 1944	4	2	106
31 May 1944	3	2	101
30 June 1944	1	2	93
31 July 1944	1	2	94
31 August 1944	1	2	86
30 September 1944	1	2	86
31 October 1944	1	2	88
30 November 1944	1	2	88


 HARRY F. ORT
 Capt., Sig. C.
 Commanding.

S E C R E T

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THE AAF
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1033-1033-H1(2)
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Sheet No. 1 Outline History 1033rd Signal Company, SG Pisa, Italy.
Month of December 1944 Prepared by Jim A. Church, 1st Sgt.

- a. Original unit
- (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter LAGG File AG-221 dated 14 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Base. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men.)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 88 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 88 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) March Field, California | Date of Activation: 15 February 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 March 1941 |
| (2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City | Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 February 1942 |
| (3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia | Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1942 |
| (4) Fort Dix, New Jersey | Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 June 1942 |
| (5) RAF Station, Molesworth, England | Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 17 September 1942 |
| (6) RAF Station, Podington, England | Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 December 1942 |
| (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1944 |
| (8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia | Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944 |
| | Date of Departure: 28 November 1944 |
| (9) Naples, Italy | Date of Arrival: 3 December 1944 |
| | Date of Departure: 22 December 1944 |
| (10) Pisa, Italy | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1944 |
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers): 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941--26 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 26 November 1941--4 February 1942, 2nd Lt John E. Linsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinmer, 16 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Frederick Horlily, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Monah, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Kinmer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. Co.
Commanding.

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History 1033rd Signal Company, SG Pisa, Italy.
 Month of December 1944 Prepared by Jim A. Church, 1st Sgt

- a. Original unit
 - (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Base. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men.)
- b. Changes in organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
 - (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 88 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 88 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:

(1) March Field, California	Date of Activation: 15 February 1941
	Date of Departure: 30 March 1941
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City	Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941
	Date of Departure: 6 February 1942
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia	Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942
	Date of Departure: 21 May 1942
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey	Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942
	Date of Departure: 30 June 1942
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	Date of Departure: 17 September 1942
(6) RAF Station, Podington, England	Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942
	Date of Departure: 6 December 1942
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria	Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942
	Date of Departure: 21 May 1944
(8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia	Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944
	Date of Departure: 28 November 1944
(9) Naples, Italy	Date of Arrival: 3 December 1944
	Date of Departure: 22 December 1944
(10) Pisa, Italy	Date of Arrival: 23 December 1944
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers): 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941--28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942, 2nd Lt John B. Wingsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinmer, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

HARRY F. ORT,
 Capt., Sig. C.
 Commanding.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

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Sheet No. 1 War Diary	1033rd Signal Company, SG	Naples, Italy
Month of December 1944		
Prepared by Jim M. Murphree, 1st Sgt., Air. C.		
DAY		
1	Our diary for this month begins at sea leaving the harbor of Augusta, Sicily and traveling on the U.S. Michael J. Stone. The ship's band ship tonight was "Going My Way" with Bing Crosby put on by the Special Service of the 17th AAF. The sea was very calm and none of the men were sea-sick.	
2	This morning we arrived at the harbor of Naples, Italy and are to spend another day at sea and anchor here at this harbor.	
3	We disembarked from the U.S. Michael J. Stone at 0930 hours today and set up new quarters in the city of Naples. Our quarters are located in a former apartment house at 9 Corso Novaro. We were kept very busy unloading our equipment from the ship. Sergeant Gillespie rejoined the organization and had many things arranged for the Company. Mr. Horr was sent on detached service today as an advance party for a future movement of the Company.	
4	Our men worked hard today unloading more equipment from the ship and arranging our new quarters. Mess tables were procured from Utilities at Air Force General Depot Number 3. The organization is quite comfortably situated but it appears that we will soon be on the move again. We were informed today that our stay in Naples would be very short and we would not go into operation while here.	
5	Most of the men have traveled around the city of Naples and have found many places of interest. The San Carlo's Opera House in the center of the city has attracted men who have spent an afternoon there to enjoy a famous opera. The men report one of the best Red Cross installations they have ever seen and spend a lot of off-duty time there. Mr. Horr came back from detached service today with details of our future movement.	
6	Being attached to AFGL #3, our men are authorized to join their Enlisted Men's Club, "The Power Dive". Staff Sergeant Guaraldi was placed in charge of the membership drive to the club.	
7	Due to our movement, our pay-roll was delayed until today. Equipment for a day-room has not been procured yet so our kitchen is being used for the monthly poker games. Twenty-one men answered Sergeant Guaraldi's notice of membership to the "Power Dive". Many of these men visited the club tonight and returned having an enjoyable time after dancing and having a few mixed drinks.	
8	Our men have found AFGL #3 to have several means of interesting entertainment. Their theater is the best we have seen overseas and features new and outstanding pictures each day. We have witnessed a few exciting basketball games in a fast league held at the Depot. As we will not be here long, our basketball team will not enter the league. We are also using the shower facilities at Depot #3.	
9	Today a truck went to Pompeii for our men to visit the Roman ruins there. The men returned having an interesting day and purchased many souvenirs of Pompeii.	

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- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 10 | Since arriving in Naples, our men have been doing "WP". We certainly do miss the P.O.'s we had in Africa but our men do the work in the regular "GI" manner. Only "WP" and Guard Duty and a few miscellaneous details give ample time for all the men to see all the sites in the immediate locality. |
| 11 | Our Supply Sergeant issued the new "GI" sweater to each man today. The fellows seem to like their new sweaters and find them very warm. |
| 12 | We now have our own Company Post Exchange. Sergeants Villian, Martinale, and Wilkite were put in charge of the PX and have been issued many articles from AFM #3 Quartermaster which will go on sale in a few days. Beer was sold today which our men enjoyed very much. |
| 13 | Many of our men are taking advantage of the hot cross buns which they have three days during the week. The tour which is enjoyed most is the one to Mt. Vesuvius. Our photographers have been taking some very good pictures on these tours. Another tour that has been taken is the one through the city of Naples. |
| 14 | Very nice writing and card tables and chairs were procured from the hot cross today which completed a comfortable Company Day Room. Our other games have been taken from the kitchen to the day room and the men now write letters at tables instead of on the side of the bed. |
| 15 | Sergeant Gover returned to the organization today from detached service with Headquarters, I ABM. Sergeant Gover has been away from us since August helping I ABM with their cryptome cipher work. He had a large mail call today consisting mostly of Christmas packages. The men have been having light snacks at night in their rooms from the articles of food they received from home. |
| 16 | Tonight at the AFM #3 theater there was a real good USO show featuring five American girls who staged an enjoyable variety show. The men certainly thought it a real treat to see American girls. |
| 17 | Eight of our Signal Depot men were sent on detached service today to AFM #6 to aid the 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) with their depot work, per Paragraph 3 Special Order 309 dated 15 December 1944 Headquarters AFM #3/AFM. Master Sergeant Mc Donald and Sergeant Conley left today on Temporary Duty to spend thirty days at their home. Sergeants Mc Donald and Conley were attached to the 7th Replacement Depot for trans-shipment to the United States per Paragraph 3 Special Order 309 dated 15 December 1944 Headquarters AFM #3/AFM. |
| 18 | Another large mail call today which always lifts the men's morale. It is beginning to look like Christmas around the Company now with the gifts accumulating. Our monthly physical examination was held today by a Medical Officer from the AFM #3 Dispensary. |
| 19 | Sergeant Clark and Corporal Fowler were both hospitalized today. Clark was sent to the 106th Station Hospital and Fowler to the 52nd Station Hospital. |
| 20 | Today we were informed that our stay in Naples would end in a few days as orders have been received for the unit to move. We loaded some of our equipment and the men packed their personal belongings ready for a truck convoy. Private First Class Byrne fainted doing "WP" duty and was taken to the 52nd Station Hospital for observation and a general physical check-up. |

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DAY	EVENTS
21	Sergeant Sherman entered the 52nd Station Hospital to say for treatment of an infection of the feet. We completed the loading of our equipment on the trucks today and are ready to leave Naples early tomorrow morning. Tonight, Major Frederick Herfily, former Commanding Officer of this organization visited us. Major Herfily, then Captain, made many friends while in command of the Company and the men were very glad to see him again.
22	This morning the Company convoyed out of Naples at 0800 hours. We left four men behind hospitalized but hope that they will be back with us soon. Our authority to leave Naples was General's 3-Movement Order 52 dated 17 December 1944, Headquarters AFHQ/TC. With a convoy of seventeen vehicles we traveled 209 miles till 1200 hours at which time we bivouacked at Traffic Control Point C. Sergeant Sopenski cooked a hot meal for us which really was good after a cold day's ride. This is surely a cold night especially since we have to sleep out in the open.
23	After spending a cold night of sleeping but then refreshed by a warm breakfast we departed Traffic Control Point C and traveled 156 miles in cold weather. We arrived at Air Force General Lelet Number 6 at 1700 hours and moved into a building in Pisa that was formerly a schoolhouse. The men went right to work and arranged the living quarters.
24	The entire organization was kept very busy today unloading our equipment and setting up our kitchen, Supply room, and Officer's room. Until Civilian Personnel is procured we will still use our own "T's". Sergeant Sopenski is preparing one of his "Holiday Specials" for Christmas dinner tomorrow.
25	Another Christmas overseas for the 1033rd Signal Company. Due to movement and unsettled condition there wasn't much of a celebration this year. The men continued to work around the Company area. Sergeant Sopenski came through with a delicious dinner that the men enjoyed very much. Many of our men met several of their friends from other Signal units who are former members of this organization. It is a very clear Christmas day and many of the men went sight-seeing through the town of Pisa and climbed the leaning tower.
26	Mr. Horr and Master Sergeant Jackson were sent on detached service today to the vicinity of Ancona to investigate communication facilities in that area.
27	The men have changed their minds about the theater in Naples being the best they have seen overseas now that they have visited the theater run by Special Services of AFHQ. The theater is a former Opera House and is very comfortable with new shows every two nights. Also located at the theater is a very nice bar, a music room, and a library. Our men have taken advantage of all the entertainment at the former Opera House.
28	Sergeant Halton, Supply Sergeant, issued the new "GI" field jacket to each man today which all the men seem to like as they are warmer than the old type of jacket.
29	The Company being comfortably located most of the organization reported to the 915th Signal Company for duty. Warrant Officer Schmidt with his Supply Section and a detail from the Operations Section is assisting the 915th Signal Company in inventorying and moving their spot.

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- 29 The Radio Repair Section are checking radio vans and assisting in the general repair and several telephone operators are now on duty. The Company had been idle since leaving Africa on 28 November 1944 and with the exception of short periods of travel, the only time since their arrival in England in July of 1942.
- 30 The 26th Fighter Group has a very nice theater where at the present time they are featuring a USO show named "Art Thou Cookin'". Some of our men are planning to make a trip to Florence on New Year's Day to see a "Spaghetti Bowl" football game.
- 31 Sergeant Sherman returned to his organization today from the 52nd Station Hospital in Naples. He was informed that he was to join an advanced party to Cattolica, Italy, our future station, with Supply Sergeant, 26th A.G. Thirty men from our Company's Battalion were selected for the advance party and are to leave in a few days. This ends our diary for another month or another year.

[Handwritten signature]
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HEADQUARTERS
1033RD SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP
AIR FORCE GROUND SCHOOL
AFC 522

5 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Administrative Data.

1. Present Designation of Unit:
1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn)
2. Activation of Unit:
Activated 15 February 1941 as 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base at March Field, California per AFSC File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941 in accordance with T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940. General Order Number 3 Par 4, Hqs GFC Air Force, Langley Field, Virginia dated 8 February, 1941.
3. Redesignations:
10 September 1942 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base redesignated 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) per Authority ETOUSA Cablegram dated 10 September 1942. 18 May 1943 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) redesignated 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) per IS letter 320.2 Subject Redesignation of Certain Units, dated 14 February 1943 per MATOUSA letter AG 322.07/105 dated 13 May 1943.
4. Reorganization:
February 1943 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) reorganized per Authority TNA message from 12th Air Force to II Air Service Area Command in accordance with T/O 11-237 dated 1 July 1942.
5. Assignments:
 - a. 15 July 1942 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base assigned to the 37th Service Group. (Order number not available.)
 - b. 23 December 1942 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) assigned to 11th Air Depot Group per Paragraph 2 Special Order 37 II Area Service Command (Prov) dated 7 February 1943.
 - c. 15 June 1943 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to 38th Air Depot Group. (Order number not available.)
 - d. 12 September 1943 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to 19th Air Depot Group. (Order number not available.)
 - e. 19 May 1944 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) assigned to the 17th Air Depot Group per Movement Order Number 46, Hqs I Air Service Area Command dated 19 May 1944.
 - f. 3 December 1944 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to AFSC 3 per General Order 102, Hqs AFSC/ATO dated 22 November 1944.
 - g. 22 December 1944 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to AFSC 6 per Paragraph 3 Movement Order 52 Hqs AFSC/ATO dated 17 December 1944.
6. Commanding Officers:
 - a. 2nd Lt John B. Winstead-- 4 February 1942 to 17 September 1942 per O 50 131 Hqs Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma dated 4 February 1942.

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- c. Captain Frederick Merrill--22 February 1943 to 9 June 1943 per 4 SO 51 Hqs II Air Service Area Command dated 22 February 1944.
- d. Captain Otto J. Lock--9 June 1943 to 8 January 1944 per 11 SO 139 Hqs VII Air Force Service Command dated 3 June 1943.
- e. 2nd Lt Robert G. Kinsler--1 January 1944 to 19 February 1944 per 33 SO 6 Hqs II SO 10 dated 6 January 1944.
- f. Captain Harry F. Ort--19 February 1944 to date per 5 SO 33 Hqs I SO dated 17 February 1944.

7. Movements:

- a. 30 June 1942 unit departed staging area at Fort Dix, N.J.
- b. 30 June 1942 unit arrived New York Port of Embarkation.
- c. 1 July 1942 unit sailed from New York Port of Embarkation.
- d. 1 July 1942--15 July 1942 unit at sea.
- e. 15 July 1942 unit disembarked at Greenock, Scotland.
- f. 15 July 1942 unit proceeded by rail to RAF Station, Colchester, England.
- g. 17 September 1942 unit proceeded by truck to RAF Station, Edington, England.
- h. 6 December 1942 unit proceeded by rail to Liverpool, England.
- i. 7 December 1942 unit boarded English Army Transport Ship.
- j. 7 December 1942 to 22 December 1942 unit at sea.
- k. 23 December 1942 unit disembarked at Mers el Kebir and proceeded by truck to La Senia, Algeria.
- l. 21 May 1944 unit departed La Senia Air Base by truck convoy.
- m. 26 May 1944 unit arrived El Aouin Air Base, Tunisia.
- n. 28 November 1944 unit disembarked at Tunis, Tunisia.
- o. 28 November 1944--2 December 1944 unit at sea.
- p. 3 December 1944 unit arrived Naples, Italy.
- q. 22 December 1944 unit departed Naples, Italy.
- r. 23 December 1944 unit arrived Pisa, Italy.

8. Strength:

	<u>0</u>	<u>1/0</u>	<u>2/1</u>
31 July 1942	1	0	32
30 September 1942	1	0	32
31 October 1942	1	0	32
30 November 1942	1	0	32
31 December 1942	1	0	32
31 January 1943	1	0	31
28 February 1943	1	0	16
31 March 1943	2	0	51
30 April 1943	3	0	71
31 May 1943	3	1	75
30 June 1943	3	1	82
31 July 1943	4	1	78
31 August 1943	6	1	89
30 September 1943	7	1	92
31 October 1943	7	1	91
30 November 1943	7	1	96
31 December 1943	5	1	103
31 January 1944	6	1	87
29 February 1944	5	1	87
31 March 1944	4	1	101

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8. Strength (cont'd)	<u>0</u>	<u>1/0</u>	<u>2/1</u>
30 April 1944	4	2	106
31 May 1944	3	2	101
30 June 1944	1	2	95
31 July 1944	1	2	94
31 August 1944	1	2	86
30 September 1944	1	2	86
31 October 1944	1	2	85
30 November 1944	1	2	85
31 December 1944	1	2	88

Henry F. O'Connell
 HENRY F. O'CONNEL,
 Capt., Sig. C.
 Commanding.

RETURNED
 TO THE ARCHIVES
 THE AAF
 HISTORICAL OFFICE
 JRN-1945

SIG-1033-H1

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Sheet No. 1 Outline History 1033rd Signal Company, SG Pisa, Italy.
Month of January 1945 Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant.

a. Original unit

- (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
- (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
- (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941.
- (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
- (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air King. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men.)

b. Changes in organization: None

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

- (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 88 EM
- (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EM
- (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
- (4) At end of month: 3 O; 88 EM

d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:

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| (5) RAF Station, Molesworth, England | Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942 |
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| | Date of Departure: 28 November 1944 |
| (9) Naples, Italy | Date of Arrival: 3 December 1944 |
| | Date of Departure: 22 December 1944 |
| (10) Pisa, Italy | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1944 |

e. Marches: None

f. Campaigns: None

g. Battles: None

h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers): 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941--28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinner, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Novak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)

i. Losses in action: None

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None

k. Photographs: None

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

SECRET

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History 1033rd Signal Company, SG Pisa, Italy.
Month of January 1945 Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant.

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- (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
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- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
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| | Date of Departure: 17 September 1942 |
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| | Date of Departure: 6 December 1942 |
| (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942 |
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| | Date of Departure: 28 November 1944 |
| (9) Naples, Italy | Date of Arrival: 3 December 1944 |
| | Date of Departure: 22 December 1944 |
| (10) Pisa, Italy | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1944 |
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements: None (Unit has had the following Commanding Officers): 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941--28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinser, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nova, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944--to date.)
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1, War Diary 1033rd Signal Co, Service Group Pisa, Italy

Month of January 1945

Prepared by Jim A. Church, F/Sgt.

DAY

EVENTS

- 1 During the first day of 1945 the company busied itself readying an advance party to our new station. It leaves on the 2nd. Eight of our Signal Supply men returned from the 915th Signal Co, Depot (Avn) today. They will continue at duty with the depot company, but will be quartered and messed with us. Mr. Herr and Sgt Jackson returned from the vicinity of Ancona, having completed a survey of communications facilities at our new station. The destination of several of our men today was the "Spaghetti Bowl", where they witnessed the trouncing of the 12th Air Force pigskinners by a 5th Army team.
- 2 Mr Herr and thirty men made up the advance party that left very early this morning to establish communications at our new station. They have been attached to the 36th ADG's Supply Squadron there by par 2, Movement Order 3 Hqs, AFGD #6, dtd 31 December 1944 for this permanent change of station. Three Tec 5s, Campbell, Gragg and Stewart, drove organizational vehicles in the convoy and are on TD orders for three days.
- 3 Six bottles of American beer, very welcome to most of us, were included in our PX ration, made available to us today by Supply Sergeant Haltem. Tec 5 Ingram returned to his duties as cook today, having recovered from an infected hand. Tec 5 Stewart had been filling the temporary vacancy.
- 4 Tec 5s Campbell, Gragg and Stewart reported our advance party safely arrived in Cattolica, Italy, exact site of our new station. Buildings which formerly housed a fishery are now being used by the party as quarters.
- 5 USO presented an unusual show at AFGD #6 theatre tonight. 1944 World Series movies, talks by diamond stars Joe Medwick, N. Y. Giants, Nick Etten, N. Y. Yanks and Lee Durrocher, "them bums" colorful manager. Tom Meaney, New York sports writer played "master mind" in a baseball quiz that followed.
- 6 Private John J Hart's transfer to 2618th Hqs Squadron, MATS, as directed in par 1, SO 360 dtd 27 December 1944 at Hqs, AAFSC/MTO was completed today. Sgt Clark returned to duty today after a two week's stay in the 106th Station Hospital. Sgts Basile and Wilhite completed the construction of a shower-room in the rear of company quarters for use of the enlisted men.
- 7 S/Sgts Stoeber and Wallace, Sergeant Basile and Tec 5 Gragg drove two 2 and one half ton trucks of organizational equipment to our new station, officially designated as AFGD #7 at present.
- 8 The Ordnance section, AFGD #6, declared our weapons as evidencing excellent care, after inspecting them on this date. Mr. Schmidt and Mess Sgt Sepenski purchased a sufficient number of dishes and cups to warrant our putting away mess cups and kits. The purchase was made from the company fund.
- 9 Miss Caroline Young, ARC, an old acquaintance from the ARC Enlisted Men's Club at El Aouina Army Air Base, may be responsible for the large number of men from this organization who can be found at the Pisa ARC during off duty hours. "Carrie" just joined the Pisa club and was most welcome to us.
- 10 Had sort of a "repeat" Christmas today, with the arrival in mail of many Christmas packages that had been delayed because of our recent movements. Italian civilians have been hired by the company from Civilian Personnel at AFGD #6 for mess work and other utility duties.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
11	Correspondence was received today pertaining to Privates First Class Byrne and Beaulieu. Both of these men entered the hospital before we arrived in Pisa. Byrne is being considered for a medical discharge and Beaulieu has been sent to the 1st Replacement Battalion to be returned to this organization.
12	The Signal Supply section and details from other sections have completed moving the Signal equipment from the old depot occupied by the 915th Signal Company to their new location. This was a dirty and tedious job as the boxes were mud covered and water soaked from the Pisa flood. The Radio Repair section is nearing completion of their work checking fighter control equipment. This was the first opportunity for a number of the men in the Radio section to work on this type of equipment since completing their schooling.
13	Corporal Stewart left this morning for Rome where he will spend five days at the AAF Rest Camp and tour the city of Rome.
14	Sergeant Wilhite returned from AFGD #7 where he delivered supplies and mail to our men stationed there. Corporals Griffiths and Gragg left this morning for AFGD #7 with another truckload of organizational equipment.
15	Since being here in Pisa we have been receiving the daily issue of "Stars and Stripes" free of charge through Special Service, AFGD #6, and the Red Cross. It was announced today that we will begin to pay two lire a copy for the "Stars and Stripes". The majority of our men signed for the paper.
16	Sergeant Streifer, who has been in the dispensary for the past week, entered the 7th Station Hospital today for an operation. Corporals Griffiths and Gragg returned from AFGD #7 today.
17	Common items of supplies have been received for opening our Signal Depot and will be trucked to AFGD #7 as soon as transportation is available.
18	Sergeant Schroyer traveled to Rome to stay to spend five days at the AAF Rest Camp. Corporal Stewart returned from his Rome trip late this afternoon after having a fine time.
19	Sergeants Canfield, Stoeber, Cottrell, and Corporal Griffiths of our Radio Repair Section and Sergeant Wilhite and Corporal Foster of the Message Center and Teletype Section went on Temporary Duty to AFGD #7 per Paragraph 3 Special Order 17 dated 18 January 1945, Headquarters AFGD #6. Sergeant Gulley arrived at this station tonight after being at AFGD #7 for two weeks. Tomorrow is a big day for Sergeant Gulley.
20	There are four happy men in the organization today who are leaving the organization for trans-shipment to the United States. Sergeant Gulley is going home on permanent rotation per Paragraph 2 Special Order 15 Hqs AAFSC/WFO dated 15 January 1945. After spending thirty days at their homes, Sergeant Sherman, Corporal Stewart, and Private Larson will return to the Company. The authority for their temporary duty to the United States is Paragraph 3 Special Order 15 dated 15 January 1945.
21	Our men have been buying a lot of souvenirs to send home. Many of the men have purchased souvenirs while visiting Florence on trips sponsored by AFGD #6. The men particularly like the alabaster items that the Italian merchants have on sale.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 22 | A Special Order was received today stating that Private First Class Byrne was transferred to Detachment of Patients, 118th Station Hospital per Paragraph 8 dated 18 January 1945, Headquarters 118th Station Hospital. Byrne is to be sent to the United States as class "C" personnel. |
| 23 | Technician 5th Grade Cunningham will spend five days at Rome Rest Camp commencing today. Sergeant Francis Peregrin was assigned to this organization from the 391st Signal Company per Paragraph 1 Special Order 17 dated 17 January 1945 Hqs AAFSC/MT0. Sergeant Peregrin is a radio operator and will be assigned to our Radio Operations Section. |
| 24 | Sergeant Schroyer returned from his five day leave in the city of Rome. At the present time at the AFGD #6 theater, there is a USO stage show named "Blithe Spirit" starring Annabella, the screen actress. |
| 25 | Company Supply has issued hoods for the new type jackets to all the men present at this station. Our men have purchased rabbit furs and have had them sewed in the inside of their hoods which is very warm. |
| 26 | Sergeant Peregrin, our newly assigned radio operator was sent on detached service to AFGD #7 to work with our Radio Operation section. The Pisa Red Cross sponsored a carnival featuring several side shows of "GI" talent. Many of our men attended the Red Cross event, joining in the fun and enjoyed it very much. |
| 27 | Staff Sergeant Frank J. Feeley joined this organization from the 19th Repl Bn. Sergeant Feeley is the replacement for Sergeant Reohr who went home on rotation in August 1944. Sergeant Feeley will be assigned to the Radio Operation Section. Private First Class Beaulieu, who has been in the hospital and replacement centers since October, was attached to the 435th Replacement Company, 31st RB for trans-shipment to the United States, per Paragraph 22 Special Order 24 dated 24 January 1945 Hqs 7th Repl Depot. Beaulieu was on the December orders of AAFSC/MT0 for Temporary Duty to the United States. |
| 28 | Private First Class Ptaszynski left this morning for Rome to spend five days at the Rest Camp. Corporal Cunningham returned this afternoon from his five day stay in Rome. Technician 5th Grade Edwin A. Green was assigned to our Company from the 391st Signal Company per Paragraph 1 Special Order 17 dated 17 January 1945 Hqs AAFSC/MT0. Green is a radio operator which makes our Radio Operations section complete with high speed operators. |
| 29 | Sergeant Rosner and Corporal Gragg left this morning for AFGD #7 hauling a truckload of organizational equipment to our men stationed there. |
| 30 | Today organizational equipment was loaded on trucks of the 2488th QM Truck Company to be taken to AFGD #7 tomorrow. The majority of our equipment is now at AFGD #7. |
| 31 | Sergeant Feeley and Corporal Green left this morning with the 2488th Truck Company convoy to work with our Radio Operation section. Our men at both AFGD #6 and AFGD #7 were paid. A physical inspection was held at this station. We are hoping that the Company is all together by this time next month. |

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Captain, Signal Corps,
Commanding.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

**HEADQUARTERS
1033RD SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP
AIR FORCE GENERAL DEPOT NUMBER 6
APO 528**

4 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Administrative Data.

- 1. Present Designation of Unit:**
1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn)
- 2. Activation of Unit:**
Activated 15 February 1941 as 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base at March Field, California per WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941 in accordance with T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940. General Order Number 3 Par 4, Hqs GHQ Air Force, Langley Field, Virginia dated 8 February, 1941.
- 3. Redesignations:**
10 September 1942 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base redesignated 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) per Authority ETOUSA Cablegram dated 10 September 1942. 18 May 1943 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) per WD letter 320.2 Subject Redesignation of Certain Units dated 14 February 1943 per NATOUSA letter AG 322.07/105 AM dated 13 May 1943.
- 4. Reorganization:**
February 1943 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) reorganized per Authority T&I message from 12th Air Force to II Air Service Area Command in accordance with T/O 11-237 dated 1 July 1942.
- 5. Assignments:**
 - a. 15 July 1942 33rd Signal Platoon, Air Base assigned to the 37th Service Group. (Order number not available.)
 - b. 23 December 1942 33rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) assigned to 11th Air Depot Group per Paragraph 2 Special Order 37 II Area Service Command (Prov) dated 7 February 1943.
 - c. 15 June 1943 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to 38th Air Depot Group. (Order number not available.)
 - d. 12 September 1943 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to 19th Air Depot Group (Order number not available.)
 - e. 19 May 1944 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) assigned to the 17th Air Depot Group per Movement Order Number 46, Hqs I Air Service Area Command dated 19 May 1944.
 - f. 3 December 1944 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to AFGD 3 per General Order 102, Hqs AAFSC/MFO dated 22 November 1944.
 - g. 22 December 1944 1033rd Signal Company Service Group (Avn) attached to AFGD 6 per Paragraph 3 Movement Order 52 Hqs AAFSC/MFO dated 17 December 1944.
- 6. Commanding Officers:**
 - a. 2nd Lt John B. Winsted--4 February 1942 to 17 September 1942 par 9 SO 131 Hqs Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma dated 4 February 1942.

S E C R E T

- c. Captain Fredrick Herlihy--22 February 1943 to 9 June 1943 par 4 SO 51 Hqs II Air Service Area Command dated 22 February 1944.
- d. Captain Otto J. Nowak--9 June 1943 to 8 January 1944 par 11 SO 139 Hqs XII Air Force Service Command dated 3 June 1943.
- e. 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer--8 January 1944 to 19 February 1944 par 33 SO 6 Hqs AAFSC/MTO dated 6 January 1944.
- f. Captain Harry F. Ort--19 February 1944 to date par 5 SO 33 Hqs I ASAC dated 17 February 1944.

7. Movements:

- a. 30 June 1942 unit departed staging area at Fort Dix, N.J.
- b. 30 June 1942 unit arrived New York Port of Embarkation.
- c. 1 July 1942 unit sailed from New York Port of Embarkation.
- d. 1 July 1942--15 July 1942 unit at sea.
- e. 15 July 1942 unit disembarked at Greenock, Scotland.
- f. 15 July 1942 unit proceeded by rail to RAF Station, Molesworth, England.
- g. 17 September 1942 unit proceeded by truck to RAF Station, Podington, England.
- h. 6 December 1942 unit proceeded by rail to Liverpool, England.
- i. 7 December unit boarded English Army Transport Ship.
- j. 7 December 1942 to 22 December 1942 unit at sea.
- k. 23 December 1942 unit disembarked at Mers El Kebir and proceeded by truck to La Senia, Algeria.
- l. 21 May 1944 unit departed La Senia Air Base by truck convoy.
- m. 26 May 1944 unit arrived El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia.
- n. 28 November 1944 unit disembarked at Tunis, Tunisia.
- o. 28 November 1944 --2 December 1944 unit at sea.
- p. 3 December 1944 unit arrived Naples, Italy.
- q. 22 December 1944 unit departed Naples, Italy.
- r. 23 December 1944 unit arrived AFGB #6, Pisa, Italy.

8. Strength:	0	W/O	E/M
31 July 1942	1	0	32
30 September 1942	1	0	32
31 October 1942	1	0	32
30 November 1942	1	0	32
31 December 1942	1	0	32
31 January 1943	1	0	31
28 February 1943	1	0	36
31 March 1943	2	0	51
30 April 1943	3	0	71
31 May 1943	3	1	75
30 June 1943	3	1	82
31 July 1943	4	1	78
31 August 1943	6	1	89
30 September 1943	7	1	92
31 October 1943	7	1	91
30 November 1943	7	1	96
31 December 1943	5	1	103
31 January 1944	6	1	86
29 February 1944	5	1	89
31 March 1944	4	1	101
30 April 1944	4	2	106
31 May 1944	3	2	101

S E C R E T

8. Strength (cont'd)	<u>O</u>	<u>W/O</u>	<u>E/M</u>
30 June 1944	1	2	93
31 July 1944	1	2	94
31 August 1944	1	2	86
30 September 1944	1	2	86
31 October 1944	1	2	88
30 November 1944	1	2	89
31 December 1944	1	2	88
31 January 1945	1	2	88

X Harry F. Ort
 HARRY F. ORT,
 Captain, Signal Corps,
 Commanding.

S E C R E T

THE ARCHIVE THE AAF HISTORICAL SECTION	FEB-1945	S16-1033-H1
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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 Outline History 1033rd Signal Company, SG Cattolica, Italy.
Month of February 1945 Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant.

- a. Original unit:
- (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941.
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men.)
- b. Changes in Organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 88 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 88 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary of unit or parts thereof:
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) March Field, California. | Date of Activation: 15 February 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 March 1941 |
| (2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City. | Date of Arrival: 2 April 1941 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 February 1942 |
| (3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia. | Date of Arrival: 8 February 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1942 |
| (4) Fort Dix, New Jersey. | Date of Arrival: 22 May 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 June 1942 |
| (5) RAF Station, Molesworth, England. | Date of Arrival: 15 July 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 17 September 1942 |
| (6) RAF Station, Podington, England. | Date of Arrival: 17 September 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 December 1942 |
| (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria. | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1942 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May 1944 |
| (8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia. | Date of Arrival: 25 May 1944 |
| | Date of Departure: 28 November 1944 |
| (9) Naples, Italy. | Date of Arrival: 3 December 1944 |
| | Date of Departure: 22 December 1944 |
| (10) Pisa, Italy. | Date of Arrival: 23 December 1944 |
| | Date of Departure: 10 February 1945 |
| (11) Cattolica, Italy. | Date of Arrival: 10 February 1945 |
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 February 1941--28 November 1941; 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 28 November 1941--4 February 1942, 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 February 1942--16 September 1942; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kinner, 18 September 1942--22 February 1943; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 February 1943--14 June 1943; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June 1943--8 January 1944; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 January 1944--19 February 1944; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 February 1944 to date.
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

S E C R E T

HARRY F. ORT
Capt., Sig. C.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary 1033rd Signal Company, Cattolica, Italy.

Month of February 1945 Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant.

DAY

EVENTS

- 1 The first day of February found three of our Privates being promoted to Privates First Class. These men were Reynolds, Schrimsher, and Sewell.
- 2 Private First Class Ptaszynski returned from his five day stay at the AAF Rest Camp in Rome having spent a very nice time there.
- 3 With half of our organization in Pisa and half in Cattolica, it is impossible for our basketball team to function in a depot league. Corporals Weinfurter, Hamilton, and Private First Class Salony are donating their services to the 2488th QM Truck Company basketball outfit.
- 4 Many of our men have been making trips to the city of Florence which they enjoy very much and have been purchasing many souvenirs.
- 5 Warrant Officer Schmidt, three of his Signal Supply men, and six men from the Communication's Section left today to join the other members of our Company at AFGD #7.
- 6 Corporal Clements was admitted to the 105th Station Hospital today for an operation of his foot. The monthly inspection of our weapons was held today by the Ordnance Officer of AFGD #6. Our weapons were given a high rating.
- 7 Technician 4th Grade Brame left today to spend five days at the AAF Rest Camp in Rome. Private First Class Burnside entered the 105th Station Hospital today for an operation. Sergeant Halton issued the post exchange rations to all present today. The men surely do enjoy the six bottles of beer issued.
- 8 Word has been received that more men of the organization at AFGD #6 will move to AFGD #7 on the tenth of this month. Preparations for the trip were made today.
- 9 Seven men from Radio Repair Section and three Signal Supply men will stay in Pisa and continue to work for the 915th Signal Depot Company. All the equipment that we are to take to AFGD #7 was loaded onto our own vehicles and two trucks from the 2488th QM Truck Company.
- 10 A convoy of six vehicles and twenty three men of the organization left Pisa this morning at 0700 hours. Traveling through the mountains and viewing some beautiful scenery, the men really enjoyed the trip. The authority for this movement was Movement Order Number One, AFGD #6 dated 6 February 1945. The trip was a distance of 176 miles traveled in very nice weather. We arrived at AFGD #7 in Cattolica at 1430 hours. Sergeants Canfield and Stoesber left Cattolica this morning and traveled to Pisa to attend a radar school at the 915th Signal Depot Company.
- 11 The entire Company was very busy today moving into our new quarters, a former hotel situated on the beach. The men are very enthusiastic to make their rooms as comfortable as possible.

S E C R E T


S E C R E T

** DAY	EVENTS
12	The Signal Supply Section have been busy unpacking equipment and preparing the bin stocks for issue. Requisitions are now being received and the Signal Depot is now officially underway.
13	The Radio Operation Section is preparing to move to a new location that will improve operating conditions and be more accessible to the Message Center.
14	Since arriving in Cattolica our organization has been eating with the 2496th QM Truck Company and the 36th Supply Squadron. Commencing this morning at breakfast we started to eat in our own Mess Hall using the chinaware we purchased in Pisa. Italian civilians were hired through Depot Civilians Personnel to work as mess attendants.
15	Our men have their rooms arranged very nicely and all sections of the organization are fixed to be very convenient for the men during their work.
16	Special Service of AFGD #7 has a building arranged very nicely for both athletics and shows. There is a basketball floor there where a depot league will begin in a few days. Three times a week there are movies.
17	The 417th QM Plat will be attached to our Company for rations. The 417th is billeted right next to our barracks. The Quartermaster Platoon will also team up with us in the newly formed depot basketball league.
18	A Company Order was published today assigning special duties to both officers and enlisted men of our organization. The non-commissioned officers to be assigned additional duties were Master Sergeant Jackson, Ground Safety; Technician 3rd Grade Killian, Technical Inspector; First Sergeant Church and Technical Sergeant Mortwedt, Chemical Warfare; Corporals Hamilton and Weinfurter, Special Services.
19	Playing our first basketball game with our entire squad since leaving Africa, we downed the 17th Headquarters Squadron 32-20 with Joe Weinfurter leading the attack with ten points.
20	Staff Sergeant Kaminsky left this morning for the United States on permanent rotation per Paragraph 2 Special Order 46 Headquarters AAFSC/MFO dated 15 February 1945. Technicians 3rd Grade Martindale and Wallace and Sergeant Gover also left today and will spend thirty day on Temporary Duty in the United States per Paragraph 3 Special Order 46 Headquarters AAFSC/MFO dated 15 February 1945. Corporal Lewis traveled to Rome today where he will spend five days at the AAF Rest Camp there.
21	Twenty-six men from the 2488 QM Truck Company in Pisa who have come to Cattolica on Temporary Duty have been attached to our Company for rations. Today at noon chow a committee was selected by the entire organization to manage the PX rations for the Company. The men named to the committee were Sergeants Killian and Schroyer and Corporal Weinfurter.
22	We now have our Day Room completed except for blackout curtains and a writing table which we hope to have soon. Sergeant Basile built a nice ping-pong table which we have placed in the Day Room along with our other athletic equipment.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
23	The men who have been on detached service with the 915th Signal Depot Company arrived here late this afternoon. Sergeants Canfield and Stoeber returned to the organization after attending radar school in Pisa. Also coming to this station was Private First Class Burnside who has been in the hospital.
24	Private Michael L. Lombardo was assigned and joined this organization from the 285th Replacement Company per Paragraph 16 Special Order 49 dated 18 February 1945. Private Lombardo will be assigned to our Signal Supply Section.
25	Corporal Lewis returned from his five day stay at Rome Rest Camp. In order to keep our weapons in good condition we are all to fire our pieces sometime during this week. The beach located in back of our barracks is an excellent place for firing.
26	Playing our first game in the newly formed Depot Basketball League we were victorious in defeating the American Field Service 34-20. Ham Hamilton led the scorers with eighteen points for our cagemen.
27	The past few days found our Signal Supply Section very busy unloading and warehousing signal equipment received from AEGD #3.
28	Today was the usual last day of the month with all our men present at this station receiving their monthly pay.


 HARRY E. OTT,
 Captain, Signal Corps.
 Commanding.

S E C R E T

THE ARCHIVES THE AAF HISTORICAL SECTION		MRR-1945	516-1033-H1(20)
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S E C R E T

Outline History, Sheet No. 1
Month of March 1945.

1033rd Signal Company, SG Cattolica, Italy.
Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant.

- a. Original unit:
 - (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California.
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941.
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940, letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men)
- b. Changes in Organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
 - (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 88 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 2 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 90 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:

(1) March Field, California.	Date of Activation: 15 Feb '41
	Date of Departure: 30 March '41
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City.	Date of Arrival: 2 April '41
	Date of Departure: 6 February '42
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia.	Date of Arrival: 8 Feb '42
	Date of Departure: 21 May '42
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey.	Date of Arrival: 22 May '42
	Date of Departure: 30 June '42
(5) RAF Station, Molesworth, England.	Date of Arrival: 15 July '42
	Date of Departure: 17 Sept '42
(6) RAF Station, Podington, England.	Date of Arrival: 17 Sept '42
	Date of Departure: 6 Dec '42
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria.	Date of Arrival: 23 Dec '42
	Date of Departure: 21 May '44
(8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia.	Date of Arrival: 25 May '44
	Date of Departure: 28 Nov '44
(9) Naples, Italy.	Date of Arrival: 3 Dec '44
	Date of Departure: 22 Dec '44
(10) Pisa, Italy.	Date of Arrival: 23 Dec '44
	Date of Departure: 10 Feb '45
(11) Cattolica, Italy.	Date of Arrival: 10 Feb '45
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 Feb '41--28 Nov '41; 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 28 Nov '41--4 Feb '42; 2nd Lt John B. Tinsted, 4 Feb '42--16 Sept '42; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kimmer, 18 Sept '42--22 Feb '43; Capt Frederick Herlihy, 22 Feb '43--14 June '43; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June '43--8 Jan '44; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 Jan '44--19 Feb '44; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 Feb '44 to date.
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None.
- k. Photographs: None

James V. Ort
JAMES F. ORT,
Captain, Signal Corps,
Commanding.

S E C R E T

SECRET

Outline History, Sheet No. 1
Month of March 1945.

1033rd Signal Company, SG Cattolica, Italy.
Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant.

- a. Original unit:
 - (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California.
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941.
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940, letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 February 1941.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men)
- b. Changes in Organization: None
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
 - (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 88 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 2 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 90 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof:

(1) March Field, California.	Date of Activation: 15 Feb '41
	Date of Departure: 30 March '41
(2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City.	Date of Arrival: 2 April '41
	Date of Departure: 6 February '42
(3) Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia.	Date of Arrival: 8 Feb '42
	Date of Departure: 21 May '42
(4) Fort Dix, New Jersey.	Date of Arrival: 22 May '42
	Date of Departure: 30 June '42
(5) RAF Station, Moleworth, England.	Date of Arrival: 15 July '42
	Date of Departure: 17 Sept '42
(6) RAF Station, Podington, England.	Date of Arrival: 17 Sept '42
	Date of Departure: 6 Dec '42
(7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria.	Date of Arrival: 23 Dec '42
	Date of Departure: 21 May '44
(8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia.	Date of Arrival: 25 May '44
	Date of Departure: 28 Nov '44
(9) Naples, Italy.	Date of Arrival: 3 Dec '44
	Date of Departure: 22 Dec '44
(10) Pizz, Italy.	Date of Arrival: 23 Dec '44
	Date of Departure: 10 Feb '45
(11) Cattolica, Italy.	Date of Arrival: 10 Feb '45
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers:

Bernard C. Johnson	13 Feb '41--28 Nov '41; 1st Lt
--16 Sept '42; 1st Lt	41--4 Feb '42; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 Feb '42
Frederick Herlin	18 Sept '42--22 Feb '43; Capt
8 Jan '44; 2nd Lt	14 June '43; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June '43--
19 Feb '44 to date.	1st Lt, 8 Jan '44--19 Feb '44; Capt Harry F. Ort,
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None.
- k. Photographs: None


Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Captain, Signal Corps,
Commanding.

SECRET

S E C R E T

Operations	1033rd Signal Company, SG	Cattolica, Italy.
Month Of March 1945	Prepared by Harry F. Ort, Capt., Sig. C.	

1. This organization has operated continuously with an Air Depot Group since arriving in Africa from England in December of 1942. Operating with a Depot under a Service Group Table of Organization has created many unusual problems particularly in personnel. Of necessity, most of the men have worked at various duties other than those for which they were originally trained. The additional skills so acquired has knit a highly flexible unit.
2. Activity at the Signal Depot increased considerably during the month of March with a demand for power unit repair. As power unit repairmen are not authorized by our Table of Organization it was necessary to handle the work through the Unit Motor Pool. Two civilian mechanics were hired and supervised and trained by Private First Class Burnside of our Radio Repair Section and our Motor Pool mechanics. This section has functioned well having completely overhauled twenty-two (22) units in addition to making miscellaneous repairs.
3. The Telephone Section was called upon by Depot Utilities for the construction of power lines within the Depot. This work was handled by a crew in charge of Staff Sergeant Kuzminski who had considerable experience as a power line-man in civilian life.
4. Test equipment for Airborne Radar is now being installed by the Radio Repair Section in order that fourth echelon repair can be handled at this Depot. Two radio repairmen recently attended a Radar School held at Pisa and others will attend in the near future.


HARRY F. ORT,
Captain, Signal Corps,
Commanding.

S E C R E T

SECRET

Operations

Month Of March 1945

1093rd Signal Company, SG

Cattolica, Italy.

Prepared by Harry F. Orr, Capt., Sig. C.

1. This organization has operated continuously with an Air Depot Group since arriving in Africa from England in December of 1942. Operating with a Depot under a Service Group Table of Organization has created many unusual problems particularly in personnel. Of necessity, most of the men have worked at various duties other than those for which they were originally trained. The additional skills so acquired has knit a highly flexible unit.
2. Activity at the Signal Depot increased considerably during the month of March with a demand for power unit repair. As power unit repairmen are not authorized by our Table of Organization it was necessary to handle the work through the Unit Motor Pool. Two civilian mechanics were hired and supervised and trained by Private First Class Burnside of our Radio Repair Section and our Motor Pool mechanics. This section has functioned well having completely overhauled twenty-two (22) units in addition to making miscellaneous repairs.
3. The Telephone Section was called upon by Depot Utilities for the construction of power lines within the Depot. This work was handled by a crew in charge of Staff Sergeant Duminski who had considerable experience as a power line-man in civilian life.
4. Test equipment for Airborne Radar is now being installed by the Radio Repair Section in order that fourth echelon repair can be handled at this Depot. Two radio repairmen recently attended a Radar School held at Pisa and others will attend in the near future.

Harry F. Orr
HARRY F. ORR,
Captain, Signal Corps,
Commanding.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary 1033rd Signal Company, SG Cattolica, Italy.

Month of March 1945

Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant.

DAY

EVENTS

- 1 The first day of March found many of our men depositing money in Soldier's Savings and sending it to their homes through Personal Transfer Accounts system. A large amount of money is always deposited in Soldiers Savings each month by our men.
- 2 The men enjoyed a very entertaining USO Stage Show tonight at the Depot Theater. The entire cast of the show consisted of girls, which really raised the morale of the audience. Much interest is being taken in the current basketball league. At the present time our team is in a three way tie for first place.
- 3 This morning we were surprised by the visit to our headquarters by Lieutenant Colonels Walter and Sennefeld of AFGD #7. The colonels inspected our quarters and Company area and were very much pleased with the appearance of our entire area.
- 4 Sergeants Hardebeck and Althoff left early this morning for Rome where they will spend a short leave there at the AAF Rest Camp. Our basketball squad came through with another victory tonight defeating the 1245th Engineers 37-24.
- 5 Private Angelo A. Zarro joined our organization today from the 19th Repl Bn per Paragraph 2 Special Order 56 dated 25 February 1945. Zarro is the replacement for Private First Class Tinney who was rotated last June and will take Tinney's place in our Telephone Operation's Section.
- 6 Several men of our organization are taking part in the USAFI program. Walking through the rooms at night many men can be seen working at their courses. A paper is now being published daily with a large edition Saturday for the men of the depot. Sergeant Gillespie will be the correspondent for our organization. The name of the depot paper will be the "Depot Dispatch".
- 7 Private First Class Brock returned to the Company today after spending several weeks in the 35th Field Hospital. Complying with a letter from AAFSC/MTO Headquarters all the weapons in the organization were turned in to our Company Supply.
- 8 Sergeant Paul Streifer came back to the organization this afternoon from the 7th Station Hospital. Paul underwent an operation at the hospital and is now fully recovered.
- 9 Corporal Gross traveled to Rome this morning to spend a few days at the rest camp there. After enjoying a pleasant stay, Sergeants Hardebeck and Althoff returned from the Rome Rest Camp.
- 10 Corporal Clements, who has been in the 105th Station Hospital for a month returned to the organization today after receiving a foot operation. In a "Depot Dispatch" published today we learned that two men from our basketball team lead the scoring in the local basketball league. The high scorers are Corporals Reinfurter and Hamilton respectively.
- 11 The basketball team chalked up another win tonight in the Depot Basketball League by trimming the 2496 QM Truck Company 29-4. A special feature with our meals now is recorded music at two meals a day. Our Radio Repair Section installed the record player in the mess hall so we now have music from all the top named bands with our meals.
- 12 Captain Ort traveled to AFGD #6 today by plane on official business. Corporal Fennert was accepted into the 35th Field Hospital this morning for observation.

S E C R E T


S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
13	Our Commanding Officer returned from Pisa late this afternoon and reported that the tower in Pisa still leans. Another victory went down into the win column for our cagemen as they outscored the Depot Officers 29-12 before a large crowd at the Depot Theater.
14	Brigadier General Whitten, Commanding General of AAFSC/ATO, visited our Signal Depot this afternoon. General Whitten is spending a few days at this Depot. Corporal Gross returned tonight from his fine visit to the city of Rome.
15	At noon time or after working hours we can find many of our men participating in one of two sports. The two events that draw so much interest are ping-pong and volley ball. Privates First Class Salony and Serell are responsible for erecting the good volley-ball court in back of our quarters.
16	Warrant Officer Horr and Sergeant Washa left this morning for Naples on official business at Headquarters AAFSC/ATO. Corporal Rennert was released from the 35th Field Hospital this afternoon.
17	The basketball team suffered their first defeat tonight losing by the small margin of 22-20 to the "Friendly 5" of 17th Headquarters Squadron.
18	Photography rates as the number one hobby for our organization. Most all our men have cameras and a few of our men have set up their own dark rooms. Sergeant Posner devotes the majority of his off-duty hours to developing and printing photographs for our men.
19	Staff Sergeants Guaraldi, Hardebeck, and Stoeber went to the 7th Repl Bn today for trans-shipment to the United States where they will spend a thirty day furlough. The authority for the men leaving the organization was Paragraph 3 Special Order 74 dated 15 March 1945 Headquarters AAFSC/ATO. Technician 5th Grade Lewis of our Radio Operations Section left the Company today on rotation to the United States per Paragraph 2 Special Order 74 dated 15 March 1945 Headquarters AAFSC/ATO. Sergeant Gillespie's turn came today to visit the city of Rome on a short leave.
20	Mr Horr and Sergeant Washa returned from AAFSC/ATO Headquarters this afternoon after attending to cryptographic matters at the Signal Section in Naples.
21	Located at the end of our street is a small canal which many of our men must cross in order to get to their work. The means of conveyance across the canal is a small rowboat operated by an Italian civilian. Our fellows have named the boat the "Queen Mary."
22	Tonight in our Mess Hall a meeting was held of the entire company conducted by Captain Ort. Subjects discussed at the meeting were rotation, military discipline, wearing of the uniform, and an enlisted men's club.
23	A last minute field goal by a 1952nd Ordnance man marked the second defeat for our basketball team. Ordnance outscored our boys 19 to 18. This was by far the most spectacular game played in the league this season.
24	Sergeant Gillespie returned from the Rest Center in Rome today after having a very enjoyable time there. Injured in last night's basketball contest, Corporal Fazilton was taken to the Depot Dispensary with a strained ankle.
25	Nearing completion is our own shower room located at the rear of our building. Responsible for the room are such men as Private Schrimsher for procuring a tank and pipe; Sergeant Basile for his carpentry; Corporal Gragg for doing the plumbing work; and Sergeant Kuzinski for installing electric lights in the room. An Italian civilian did a fine job of the mason work.

R E S T R I C T E D

S E C R E T

<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
26	A meeting was held tonight to make plans for the coming basketball season. Sergeant Feeley was appointed to take charge of the practice sessions and the first workout will be held in a gymnasium.
27	Sergeant Halton, our Supply Sergeant, issued to us today the new type of blouse. With buttons on close this made the men feel as they were getting a new doctor suit.
28	Private First Class Caswell was admitted to the 35th Field Hospital today. Caswell is being treated for an injured back. Another convenience was added to our quarters today as the water pipes were corrected giving all the rooms running water.
29	Corporal Hamilton returned today from the Depot Dispensary with a strained ankle and will be unable to participate in the remaining basketball games for this season. Our team gained a victory in the basketball league tonight when 17th Headquarters Squadron forfeited to us. Corporal Campbell traveled to the AAF Fone Rest Camp today to stay for a short time.
30	Sergeants McDonald and Conley were welcomed back to the Company today. These men left the organization in December to spend a furlough in the states. Both men reported having spent a very nice time and were asked many questions about the states by other members of the Company.
31	Published today in the "Depot Dispatch" was an All Star basketball team for this Depot. Corporal Reinfurter, outstanding performer for our Headquarters was awarded top position on the picked list. The usual semi-monthly Signal Operations Report has been changed to a monthly report. Our Section Chiefs were busy today totaling their traffic and man hours for the month. All our men received their pay today and at the same time marked down another month of overseas duty.


 HAROLD F. GHT,
 Captain, Signal Corps,
 Commanding.

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SECRET
APRIL 1945
DATE: 11/5/45

WAR DIARY
1033RD SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP
MONTH OF APRIL 1945

April
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April 2
1 p.m.

SECRET

6433-36

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary

1033rd Signal Company, SG

Cattolica, Italy

Month of April 1945

Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant.

DAY

EVENING

- 1 Easter Sunday started our War Diary for the month of April. Very nice services were held at the Depot Chapel. Many of our men visited the Republic of San Marino where they enjoyed Easter Sunday. A delicious dinner was served which made Easter all the nicer for the men who stayed at the Company.
- 2 The basketball season for the organization ended tonight when 36th Supply Squadron won the Depot Championship by defeating our hoopers 29-19. Our entire season can be considered a success losing only three contests with a six man squad. Corporal Campbell traveled to Rome today where he will spend a few days at the AAF Pest Camp.
- 3 Signal Supply and Radio Repair spent a busy day at work today taking inventory of all stock on hand. Technician 4th Grade Howard T. Chambers joined our organization today from the 391st Signal Company per Paragraph 1 Special Order 85 Headquarters AAFSC/MTO dated 26 March 1945.
- 4 Three days a week four men from our Company go fishing in the Adriatic with Italian civilians. From the flounder caught in yesterday's trip we had a very good fish supper tonight. Staff Sergeant Irving Moskowitz was assigned to our organization today from the 19th Repl Bn replacing Sergeant Kaminsky who was rotated in February. Moskowitz will take Kaminsky's place as Message Center Chief.
- 5 Our new shower room is now fully completed and was used by our men for the first time today. Sergeants Killian and Wilhite were designated to represent our Company to organize an Enlisted Men's Club. A building has been selected by all the Depot representatives and the building is being reconstructed and redecorated. Much work is required to make the selected building satisfactory, it may be a month before the club opens.
- 6 Sergeants Mc Donald, Kuzminski, Gould, and Corporal Griffiths traveled to AFGE #6 today where they will observe a demonstration of fungus proofing.
- 7 Two former members of our organization, Sergeants Semrinec and Monda, now with the 874th Signal Company arrived today and will spend a few days with us. We were all glad to see the old timers.
- 8 Sergeant Feeley is having regular nightly baseball workouts and plans to have a few practice games before the opening contest in the Depot League.
- 9 Staff Sergeant Dale H. Bradburn joined our Company today as the replacement for Sergeant Gulley who was rotated in January. The men who have been to Pisa the past few days observing fungus proofing returned today. During their trip, Sergeant Mc Donald purchased additional chinaware to be used in our Mess Hall.
- 10 Sergeants Canfield and Schroyer and Corporal Cunningham left today to the 7th Repl Bn for trans-shipment to the United States where they will spend some time at home after serving two and a half years of overseas duty. The authority for their departure was Paragraph 5 Special Order 99 Hqs AAFSC/MTO dated 9 April 1945.

S E C R E T


S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
11	Our baseball nine suffered defeat in its first contest of the season. The 19th Air Service Group outscored our diamond men 10-0 with plenty of hitting on the part of the victors.
12	Three new men were assigned to the Company today from the 19th Repl Bn. Corporal Bompane, Privates First Class Crosby and Farley will work in the Signal Supply Section. They were assigned to our organization by authority of Paragraph 4 Special Order 68 dated 12 April 1945 Headquarters AFGD #7.
13	Early this morning we received the very sad news of President Roosevelt's death. As in every other military organization our late president was a much admired leader. Conversations could be heard discussing the life of Roosevelt and also the future of our nation. Corporals Holey and Hufker traveled to Rome today where they will spend a short leave at the Rest Camp there.
14	This afternoon at 1400 hours there was a five minute silence in memory of our late president. The Depot Classification Board met today and six of our men had their MOS changed.
15	The entire Company attended a formation this afternoon at Depot Headquarters for memorial services for President Roosevelt. An opening prayer was given by Chaplain Horner, a War Department General Order was read by Major Clark of the 17th ADG. Taps were played and the benediction lead by Chaplain Horner.
16	Warrant Officer Horr, Corporal Pikaard and Private First Class Reynolds went to Pisa this morning where they will meet before an Officer Candidate School Board.
17	Injured in a baseball workout last night, Corporal Clements entered the Depot Dispensary this morning with a sprained ankle. Our men spend alot of their off-duty time playing volley ball. Enclosed is a snapshot of the men playing volley-ball on our court behind our billet. The snapshot was taken by Sergeant Rosner who takes most of the pictures for the organization.
18	Corporals Holey and Hufker returned from Rome today after spending an enjoyable time at the Rest Camp and through the city. Captain Ort, Corporals Weinfurter and Hamilton attended an Orientation School today at the Depot Theater conducted by the AAF/MTO I & E Section.
19	The men who went before the OCS board at Pisa returned today. We are hoping that Mr Horr, Corporal Pikaard, and Private First Class Reynolds are all successful.
20	We have finally procured black-out curtains for our Day Room and can now be used till late at night. A ping-pong tournament within the Company is now underway which being play in two sections.
21	Space in the Signal Depot is being petitioned off to have a room where fungus proofing for the organization can be done. Our Radio Repair and Signal Supply Sections will do the fungus proofing work.
22	Playing its first game in the Depot League, our baseball men were defeated 10-4 by the 649th Military Police Company.
23	Captain Ort and Sergeant Washa traveled to Naples today for cryptographic material at AAFSC/MTO Headquarters. Private Schmidt went to the AAF Rome Rest Camp today to spend a short leave there.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
24	Our Radio Repair Section has been kept very busy here lately. As many of the units we service are turning in excess equipment which must be processed before being placed back into Depot Stock.
25	Captain Ort and Sergeant Washa returned from Naples today after the monthly cryptographic trip to AAFSC/MTO Headquarters.
26	All of our men are quite busy now having their rooms painted and plastered. The appearance of our building has surely improved since we first moved into it.
27	The War News these past few days has sounded very good to all of our men. In the rooms of our barracks the men can be seen close to their radio listening to the news of the world.
28	Our Company Ping Pong tournament is almost now completed. Sergeant Streifer won the "B" bracket and at present Sergeant Feeley and Corporal Weinfurter are in the final round of "A" bracket.
29	Captain Ort was called to AAFSC/MTO Headquarters in Naples on official business today. Sergeant Kuzminski went along with the Captain. Technician 3rd Grade Washa and Staff Sergeant Halton left this morning to the 7th Repl Depot for trans-shipment to the United States. Sergeant Halton left on Temporary Duty and Sergeant Washa on permanent rotation. Both Halton and Washa are original members of this organization.
30	Sergeant Streifer and Private First Class Seward traveled to Rome Fest Camp today for a few days leave. We now have our own barber shop located in our quarters with a very good civilian barber. Sergeant Church and Corporal Campbell, our Malaria Control non-coms, attended a Malaria Control school today conducted by the Depot Surgeon. Pay call was at noon time and all men present were paid by Warrant Officer Horr in the absence of Captain Ort.


 HARRY F. ORT,
 Captain, Signal Corps.
 Commanding.

S E C R E T

OUTLINE HISTORY
1033RD SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP
MONTH OF APRIL 1945

S E C R E T

Outline History
Month of April 1945

1033rd Signal Company, SG Cattolica, Italy.
Prepared by Jim A. Church, First Sergeant.

- a. Original unit:
 - (1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
 - (2) Place of organization: March Field, California.
 - (3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
 - (4) Authority of organization: T/O Number 11-237 dated 16 December 1940 and letter WDAGO File AG-221 dated 24 Feb '41.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Transferred from 321st Signal Company, Air Wing. (1 Officer and 11 Enlisted Men.)
- b. Changes in organization: None.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
 - (1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 88 EM
 - (2) Net increase: 0 O; 5 EM
 - (3) Net decrease: 0 O; 0 EM
 - (4) At end of month: 3 O; 93 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary of unit or parts thereof):

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) March Field, California. (2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma. (3) Hunter Field, Georgia. (4) Fort Dix, New Jersey. (5) RAF Station, Molesworth, England. (6) RAF Station, Podington, England. (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria. (8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia. (9) Naples, Italy. (10) Pisa, Italy. (11) Cattolica, Italy. 	<p>Date of Activation: 15 Feb '41</p> <p>Date of Departure: 30 March '41</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 2 April '41</p> <p>Date of Departure: 6 Feb '42</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 8 Feb '42</p> <p>Date of Departure: 21 May '42</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 22 May '42</p> <p>Date of Departure: 30 June '42</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 15 July '42</p> <p>Date of Departure: 17 Sept '42</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 17 Sept '42</p> <p>Date of Departure: 6 Dec '42</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 23 Dec '42</p> <p>Date of Departure: 21 May '44</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 25 May '44</p> <p>Date of Departure: 28 Nov '44</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 3 Dec '44</p> <p>Date of Departure: 22 Dec '44</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 23 Dec '44</p> <p>Date of Departure: 10 Feb '45</p> <p>Date of Arrival: 10 Feb '45</p>
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- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 Feb '41--28 Nov '41; 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 28 Nov '41--4 Feb '42; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 Feb '42--16 Sept '42; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kimmer, 18 Sept '42--22 Feb '43; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 Feb '43--14 June '43; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June '43--8 Jan '44; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 Jan '44--19 Feb '44; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 Feb '44 to date.
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None.
- k. Photographs: One

S E C R E T

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

1033RD SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP

MONTH OF APRIL 1945

HEADQUARTERS
1033rd Signal Company Service Group
Air Force General Depot Number 7
APO 528

5 May 1945.

Subject: Special Accounts of Monthly History.

To : Historian, AAFSC/MTO, APO 528, U. S. Army.
THRU: Statistical Officer, AFGD #7, APO 528, U. S. Army.

1. The Special Accounts of the Monthly History for the month of April 1945 is herewith submitted as negative.

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

OPERATIONS

1033RD SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP

MONTH OF APRIL 1945

S E C R E T

Operations	1033rd Signal Company, SG	Cattolica, Italy.
Month of April 1945	Prepared by Harry F. Ort, Capt., Sig. C.	

The Radio Repair Section has handled the largest work load during the past month than at any other time in the Company's history. A total of 1,788 pieces of Signal equipment were checked or repaired during the month of April. Units in this area probably anticipating redeployment are cleaning house prior to their movement. A back log of several hundred items are awaiting repair and further heavy turn backs of airborne equipment are anticipated for several more months.

Harry F. Ort.
HARRY F. ORT,
Captain, Signal Corps,
Commanding.



BE RETURNED TO THE ARCHIVES OF THE AAF HISTORICAL DEPT	MAR-1945
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Outline History
Month of May 1945

1033rd Signal Company, SG Foggia, Italy.
Prepared by Jacob R. Hamilton, Tec 5, Sig. C.

- a. Original unit:
(1) Designation: 33rd Signal Platoon (Air Base)
(2) Place of organization: March Field, California.
(3) Date of organization: 15 February 1941
(4) Authority of organization: T/O 11-237 dtd 16 Dec '40.
(5) Sources from which personnel was obtained: Trans fr 321st Sig Co.
- b. Changes in organization: None.
- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
(1) At beginning of month: 3 O; 93 EM
(2) At end of month: 3 O; 91 EM
- d. Stations (permanent or temporary of unit or parts thereof):
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1) March Field, California | Date of Activation: 15 Feb '41 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 March '41 |
| (2) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma | Date of Arrival: 2 April '41 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 Feb '42 |
| (3) Hunter Field, Georgia | Date of Arrival: 8 Feb '42 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May '42. |
| (4) Fort Dix, New Jersey | Date of Arrival: 22 May '42 |
| | Date of Departure: 30 June '42 |
| (5) RAF Station, Molesworth, England | Date of Arrival: 15 July '42 |
| | Date of Departure: 17 Sept '42 |
| (6) RAF Station, Podington, England | Date of Arrival: 17 Sept '42 |
| | Date of Departure: 6 Dec '42 |
| (7) La Senia Air Base, Algeria | Date of Arrival: 23 Dec '42 |
| | Date of Departure: 21 May '44 |
| (8) El Aouina Air Base, Tunisia | Date of Arrival: 25 May '44 |
| | Date of Departure: 28 Nov '44 |
| (9) Naples, Italy | Date of Arrival: 3 Dec '44 |
| | Date of Departure: 22 Dec '44 |
| (10) Pisa, Italy | Date of Arrival: 23 Dec '44 |
| | Date of Departure: 10 Feb '45 |
| (11) Cattolica, Italy | Date of Arrival: 10 Feb '45 |
| | Date of Departure: 18 May '45 |
| (12) Foggia, Italy | Date of Arrival: 18 May '45 |
- e. Marches: None
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding Officers: 1st Lt Elmer F. Ganz, 13 Feb '41--28 Nov '41; 1st Lt Bernard C. Johnson, 28 Nov '41--4 Feb '42; 2nd Lt John B. Winsted, 4 Feb '42--16 Sept '42; 2nd Lt Robert J. Kimmer, 18 Sept '42--22 Feb '43; Capt Fredrick Herlihy, 22 Feb '43--14 June '43; Capt Otto J. Nowak, 14 June '43--8 Jan '44; 2nd Lt Robert G. Mainzer, 8 Jan '44--19 Feb '44; Capt Harry F. Ort, 19 Feb '44 to date.
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs: None

Harry F. Ort
HARRY F. ORT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1 War Diary

1033rd Signal Company, SG

Foggia, Italy

Month of May 1945

Prepared by Jacob R. Hamilton, Tec 5, Sig C.

DAY

EVENING

1. The first day of May finds our organization still located in the small town of Cattolica, Italy with all departments busy at work. Our Soldier's Savings clerk was kept busy today accepting many deposits for the men's savings account. Lieutenant Colonel Sennefeld, Base Executive Officer, inspected our living quarters and company area this morning. The Colonel complimented us on our entire area and liked our Mess Hall set-up very much. In return for the compliment we invited Colonel Sennefeld to join us in one of our meals.
2. Several visitors were present in our Mess Hall today. This morning at breakfast not only our own men enjoyed Sergeant Chambers's delicious hot cakes but Lieutenant Colonels Walter and Sennefeld also went to the chow line for "seconds". For dinner several members of the USO show currently playing at the Depot Theater enjoyed a real "GI" meal at our Mess Hall.
3. Captain Ort and Sergeant Kuzminski returned from AAFSC/MTO Headquarters in Naples today. The entire organization is wondering what news the Captain has brought back with him.
4. This morning Staff Sergeant Killian, Private First Class Sewell, and Private Schmidt left the organization traveling to Naples for trans-shipment to the United States. At evening chow tonight Captain Ort announced to the Company what he had learned while in Naples at Service Command Headquarters. Some men of the organization will be sent to Naples and remain in what is to be called the 1033rd Signal Company. The majority of the men will remain at this station and members of the 891st Signal Company will be sent to this station. The organization here in Cattolica will be called the 891st Signal Company. Sergeant Streifer and Private First Class Seward returned from the Rome Rest Camp this evening.
5. After our noon meal today five of our men played five British soldiers in a ping-pong contest and were victorious with a four to one score. Sergeants Feeley, Basile, Streifer and Corporal Weinfurter were our contestants to out-point the British opponents.
6. Sergeants Baker and Mortwedt left this morning for Naples then to travel to the United States to replace key personnel. Baker was our non-com in charge of the Signal Depot and Mortwedt was chief of our Radio Operations Section. Both men were original members of this organization.
7. Private First Class Pettry was our first man to receive a trip to the Rest Camp in France. Pettry departed this station early this morning. A party was held tonight to be the last for this 1033rd Signal Company. Shortly after supper we heard by radio that the European war had ended. This made us all happy and we celebrated a double occasion with Mess. Sergeant Sopenski's punch as the weapon. Delicious sandwiches and potato salad prepared by Sergeant Chambers and ice cream donated to us by the 417th QM Platoon were the refreshments.

S E C R E T

<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
8.	Today being declared VE Day everyone was in a very happy mood. It was a holiday for everyone at the Depot. Most of our fellows enjoyed the day by swimming off the beach located directly behind our quarters. Others went on a short trip. Sergeant Gillespie and Corporal Hamilton worked on the Adjusted Service Rating card of each man. All members of the unit were interviewed by Captain Ort as to the number of children they had and if they desired to stay in the Army.
9.	Today was declared another holiday and our fellows surely enjoy swimming in the Adriatic. All members came by Company Headquarters this morning to certify that their length of service and time overseas was shown correctly on their Adjusted Service Rating Cards. Sergeant Sopenski and Private First Class Salony traveled to Rome today where they will spend a few days at the Rest Camp there.
10.	Another happy day for the members of the 1033rd Signal. We learned this evening that our outfit is not to split up and we will all remain in the good ole 1033rd Signal Company.
11.	It is expected that in the very near future we will move from this station. Our Signal Supply and Radio Repair Sections are very busy packing equipment. Many attended the USO show featuring Roscoe Yates at the Depot Theater tonight. Roscoe Yates, the former movie star, kept the boys laughing during the entire show.
12.	Private Usher was promoted to Private First Class today per Company Order 5. Captain Sterling, Sergeant Kalafus, and Corporal Harrall all from Headquarters AAFSC/MTO came to us on detached service today and will work at the Signal Depot. The majority of our fellows are spending their off-duty time swimming. We would all like to spend the summer here in Catolica but it is definite now we will be leaving in a short time.
13.	Corporal Stewart and Private Larson returned from temporary duty in the United States today. Both men reported having a wonderful time at home and although glad to be back to the unit they would much rather be in the states.
14.	The Depot Post Exchange opened today and have a very nice store and a good selection of articles to purchase. All sections of the Company are now preparing to move. The Signal Depot and Radio Repair Sections have been working nights to be sure to have their departments ready for the movement.
15.	We learned today that we will leave this station on the eighteenth of this month and that we will travel to Foggia, Italy from here. All of the men began preparing their personal belongings for the trip. Sergeant Sopenski and Private First Class Salony returned from the Rome Rest Camp this afternoon.
16.	The MRU roster for VE Day was received by us today and each members credits were placed by his name. The roster was returned to the 21st Machine Record Unit.

S E C R E T

DAY	EVENTS
17	Warrant Officer Schmidt and four Signal Supply men of our organization will remain here at this station for a short time along with the men who are now on detached service with us from Service Command Headquarters. Our enlisted men who will continue to work at this depot are Sergeants Snider, Yockubisin, Brame, and Hemmekens. This afternoon all Company and personal equipment was loaded on trucks to be taken to Foggia tomorrow along with our convoy.
18	After spending five months in Cattolica we departed early this morning by motor convoy. Seventy-one enlisted men and two officers of our unit traveled 314 miles and arrived in Foggia at 1930 hours. We were attached to the 339th Air Service Squadron at Amendola, a few miles outside of Foggia. After having late chow, we pitched tents and then retired for the evening after a long day.
19	We learned today that the 1033rd Signal Company was soon to be disbanded. The enlisted men and the equipment are to be divided among units that are being formed under XV AFSC. This was bad news for all of us as most of us have been working together for several years. The organization has held a fine reputation for Signal operations. Our men are very unhappy of the fact that our outfit must disband. Private First Class Pettry returned from the Rest Camp in France today after enjoying a very fine trip. Many of our fellows visited the city of Foggia tonight and did not approve of it like other Italian cities we have visited.
20	Today the orders for the transfer of our Officers and enlisted men reached us. Warrant Officer Horr was transferred to the 530th Air Service Group. Warrant Officer Schmidt was transferred to the 533rd Air Service Group. Thirty-eight enlisted men were transferred to the 529th Air Service Group. Thirty-seven enlisted men were transferred to the 528th Air Service Group. All the above personnel were transferred on Special Order 96 Headquarters 324th Air Service Group.
21.	Orders were received today transferring our members who are currently on at temporary duty in the United States to the United States. This included fifteen enlisted men who at one time were very valuable to this unit. The men present here in Italy reported to their new organization this morning. This parted many friends that have been together a long time.
22.	Today ends the history of the 1033rd Signal Company when the final roster was submitted. Captain Crt, Commanding Officer, and First Sergeant Church were transferred to the 528th Air Service Group. The outfit was organized in February 1941 at March Field, California and has traveled a long ways since that time. All of its members were outstanding in their line of work. Let us hope that our men join an outfit as fine as the one they left and that they will all return to their homes in the very near future.

Harry F. Crt
HARRY F. CRT,
Capt., Sig. C.
Commanding.

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19-1033-S2-RE-21

Sheet No. 4 War Diary, 33rd Signal Co. Serv. Gp Sqn. Podington

Month of October, 1942, Prepared by Young, John W. S/Sgt 33rd Signal Co.
(Name) (Rank) (Unit) Serv. Gp.

DAY	EVENTS
HISTORY - Cont.	
11 October	Organization carried on regular training and duties.
13 October	Organization moved from tents to huts at the same station. Due to the insistant rain and increasing cold, the change was welcomed by all the men.
16 October	Tech. 5th Grade Lewis returns from hospital to duty.
17-18 Oct.	Organization carried on regular training and duties.
19 October	Six 2-1/2 ton cargo trucks were assigned to the company - the problem of drivers then arose.
20 October	Tech. 5th Grade Tinney returned from hospital to duty.
21 October	More communications on the base were taken over by the organization and gurads were required for the post.
23-25 Oct.	Final touches were put on packing and crating of equipment. All supplies which were needed were requisitioned and obtained.
31 October	Payday - After regular duties, poker games abounded.
1 November	Telephone crew took down all field telephone lines and switchboard.
2 November	Tech. 5th Grade Mack L. Kennedy, who has been with the organization since its activation was today promoted to the grade of Tech. 4th and transferred to the 61st Signal Company, Service Group.
3 November	Regular duties were carried on.
4 November	Pfc. Joe F. Bacon, who was injured in an automobile accident, was today transferred to the 12th Replacement Control Depot.
5-9 November	Regular duties were carried on.
9 November	Pfc. Frank Nasha, teletype operator and cryptographer was promoted to Tech, 5th Grade.
14 November	Pvt. David V. Biggers waspromoted to the grade of Pfc. Pfc. Joe F. Bacon returned to the organization from replacement pool today.
15-19 Nov.	Organizations at the base began packing equipment and preparing to leave.
20-30 Nov.	Regular duties were carried on.

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THE ARCHIVES
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Sheet No. 5 War Diary, 33rd Signal Co. Serv. Gp. Sqdn. Podington
(Station)
Month of November, 1942, Prepared by Young, John W S/Sgt. 33rd Sig Co Serv Gp
(Name) (Rank) (Unit)

DAY : E V E N T S

HISTORY - Cont.

- 1 December : Tech. 5th Grade Michael Kaminsky and Pfc. James J. Ketchel were reduced to the grade of Private. Pfc. Floyd V. Simmons was promoted to Tech. 5th Grade. Privates Martindale and Sherman were promoted to Private First Class. Pfc. Martindale taken to the Chelveston Station Hospital.
- 2 December : Organization began packing equipment today for change of station.
- 3-4 Dec. : Packing of organization personal equipment continued. Christmas gifts arrived for all members of the unit.
- 5 December : Today we moved all equipment to freight cars in Wellingborough, England.
- 6 December : This morning instructions were given to pack and be ready to leave the station by 2130 hours. Pfc. Martindale returned from the hospital. At 2030 hours we left the barracks and went directly to the station hospital where all members of the unit were given a physical examination, after which we went to the mess hall to have a last meal at Poddington, Bedfordshire, England with no regrets. At 2130 hours we loaded on trucks and headed for the Wellingborough Railway Station.
- 7 December : On the anniversary of the day that the enemy first struck at us, the 33rd Signal is on its way to strike back at him...destination unknown... At 0025 hours left Wellingborough IMS RR Station. Most of the men were tired and sleepy and almost immediately went to sleep. At 0630 hours we were awakened and told that we were at Liverpool, England. Trucks met us at the station and carried us to the docks, where the Empress of Canada was at anchor. We boarded her at 0800 hours today and were assigned to section 4 of "C" Deck. Details spent the remainder of the day loading equipment.
- 8 December : More men and equipment were loaded onto the boat this morning. At 1200 hours the boat was moved to another pier about a mile distance. More men and equipment were loaded here.
- 9 December : Today a major portion of the personnel was loaded on the boat and we furnished guides and details to direct organizations to their areas.
- 10 December : Today we awoke to find that we had pulled away from the pier and were awaiting to get underway.
- 11 December : This morning ships began to gather about us and at approximately 1400 hours the convoy began to move out of the harbour.

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Sheet No. 6 War Diary, 33rd Signal Co. Serv. Gp. Sqdn. _____

Month of December, 1942, Prepared by Young, John W S/Sgt. 33rd Sig. Co. Serv. Gp.
(Name) (Rank) (Unit)

DAY : E V E N T S

HISTORY - Cont.

- 12 December : Early this morning we found we were in the Irish Sea. On one side we : could see the mountains of Scotland and on the other the mountains of Ire- : land. All the men were amazed at the largeness of the convoy. Toward late : evening we began to lose sight of land.
- 14 December : Heavy fog and a rough sea. By 1500 hours the boat began to rocking : heavily. We received word that we were about to go into a heavy storm. The : men began to refuse their food and all but about six members of the organiza- : tion became sea sick. Surely tomorrow will be a better day.
- 15 December : At approximately 0200 hours this morning there was a terrific crash and : men sleeping on tables began rolling off of them. Guns, packs and bedding : rolls began rolling off the racks and fell on sleeping men in hammocks. The : boat had been rocking all night, but at this particular time it took and : extreme dip to one side and then to the other. I shall never forget one boy : who jumped up in bed and shouted "Boys, this is it!" In the midst of all : the cursing the men had to stop and laugh at this. We had little sleep until : 0630 hours when we go up. Outside, waves were splashing on the promenade : deck. No one could possibly go onto the bow of the ship. Few men could eat. : All day long we rocked and rocked. Surely tomorrow will be a better day.
- 16 December : Just as rough as yesterday. The floors were wet from leaking port : holes and we would slide from one side of the boat to the other every time : we tried to walk. At approximately 1900 hours today the sea grew a bit more : calm. We knew we were going South and surely, soon we must run out of the : storm.
- 17 December : Today the sun came out and the sea became calmer. The dining tables : began to see faces they had not seen in some time. The decks again became : crowded. The sun was not so far south as it was when last we saw it.
- 19 December : We had a very nice day today. The sun shone bright and warm and the : sea was very calm in comparison with previous days. At about 1430 hours an : Armoured Division Band came on deck and played a thirty-minute concert. : Tonight the moon shone brightly and the sea was very calm.
- 20 December : Before daylight this morning men came from on deck stating that they : could see shore lights on both sides of the ship. We surmised that we were : going through the straits of Gibraltar. Sure enough, at day break we saw : the Rock of Gibraltar and back of it the mountains of Spain. By 1000 hours : the sun was shining brightly and we were going East along the coast of Spain. : We could see snow-capped mountains and yet the calm and blue Mediterranean : was definitely warm. This afternoon the band played another concert and we : sat on deck and took a sun bath.

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Sheet No. 7 War Diary, 33rd Signal Co. Serv. Gp. Sqdn. _____

Month of December, 1942, Prepared by Young, John, W S/Sgt. 33rd Sig Co. Serv. Gp.
(Name) (Rank) (Unit)

DAY : E V E N T S

HISTORY - Cont.

- 21 Dec. : At 0200 hours this morning I was awakened by four terrific blasts which
: seemed to be at some distance away. I heard no guns firing and so I went back
: to sleep. 0730 hours we went on deck and found Oran Harbor in front of us.
: At 0900 hours we came to anchor in Mers El Kebir Harbor. At approximately
: 1200 hours troops began debarking. Our complete organization was chosen for
: a baggage detail. About 1500 hours a pursuit plane began diving and climbing
: over the harbor and many times came directly over our heads. As he made one
: dive over us he leveled off and either hit a wind pocket or lost control of his
: plane and crashed into the harbor. The incident was witnessed by most of the
: men of the 33rd Signal.
- 22 Dec. : At 0600 hours we started getting our personal equipment together to get
: off the boat. At 0900 hours we started loading it on a barge to go over to the
: Oran Docks. One barge with part of our organizational equipment was ready to
: go at 1000 hours. S/Sgt. Baker, T/4th Anderson, Cpl. Stewart and myself got
: aboard and went along to Oran Harbor. The remainder of the organization sat
: out on another barge until 1630 hours and upon learning the barge would not go
: across that day, went back aboard the Empress of Canada to spend the night.
: We at Oran Harbor waited all day for the remainder of the organization. Night
: came and we had not one blanket to sleep on. We tried to sleep on the rough
: cobblestones of the dock.
- 23 Dec. : The bay became extremely rough and no barges could cross. Personnel and
: their equipment were loaded upon landing barges and proceeded toward the bay.
: The barges found the bay much too rough and had to return to Mers El Kebir
: harbor. We at Oran Docks could find no mess hall that would feed us and we
: could not leave the docks to get anything to eat. Rain began to fall in tor-
: rents. All personal equipment and men got soaked. Lt. Kemmer made arrange-
: ments for a truck to pick up the men at Mers El Kebir. The transportation did
: not arrive. Some Naval Officers asked our men to eat with them that night,
: they did and at 2000 hours the transportation arrived and carried personnel and
: equipment to La Senia Air Base
- 24 Dec. : At 1000 hours today, Lt. Kemmer arrived at the docks and picked up we
: four stranded men. At 1100 hours we arrived at La Senia Air Base to find every-
: one building shelters for bunks. We spent Christmas Eve drying wet clothing and
: equipment and building shelters. An alert was sounded at 1900 hours.
- 25 Dec. : Today the sun shone brightly. Nothing about the day gave the slightest
: resemblance to a usual Christmas Day. Most of the men attended church service.
- 26 Dec. : Today we started bringing our equipment in from the docks. At 1500 hours
: and 1900 hours a show was presented by French entertainers in our hanger.

Sheet No. 8 War Diary, 33rd Signal Co. Serv. Gp. Sqdn. La Senia Air Base
 (Station)
 Month of December, 1942, Prepared by Young, John. W S/Sgt. 33rd Sig Co. Serv. Gp.
 (Name) (Rank) (Unit)

DAY :	E V E N T S
	HISTORY - Cont.
27 Dec.	: The remainder of equipment was brought in from the Air Corps Dump. : Some of our Teletype operators went to work on the Base Teletypewriters.
28 Dec.	: Today the remainder of the Teletype pperators went to work on the base : teletype systems. Details were furnished for cleaning the hanger and grounds.
29 Dec.	: Today the telephone switchboard operators went to work operating on the : base switchboard. Regular details for policing were furnished.
30 Dec.	: Regular duties were carried on.
31 Dec.	: Pay Day - Everyone was paid in Francs today and they carried away : enough paper to cover the walls of their small huts. Several of the men : began making deposits in soldier's savings and increasing their allotments. : At 2355 hours everyone started shouting "Happy New Year" and guns started : going off outside of the hanger, which started quite a disturbance.

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516-1033-S4-RF-D
 SEPT-1943
 THE ARCHIVES
 THE AAF
 HISTORICAL DIVISION

103-1033-S4-RF-D
 SEPT 1943

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Company History for the month of September, 1943, of the 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group, A. P. O. # 528, U. S. Army.

Sept. 1. This month started off well for the following named men of this organization: Robert S. German, Edward J. Holey, Fredrick Schmidt, Glenn S. Swank and Osborne A. Wharton. These men were promoted to the grade of Private, First Class, per Company Order Number 16, dated 1 September, 1943.

Sept. 2 All unit Commanders were warned by way of the Daily Bulletin to begin making arrangements for all organizational equipment to be placed under cover. They are warned that after 15 October storage outside will be hazardous due to rain and mud. A large number of men of this organization enjoyed a stage review at the Base Theatre. It was billed as "Dori Ann Stage Review" with 8 beautiful girls and 2 men.

Sept. 3 S/Sgt Clyde D. Isaacs and Technician Third Grade Robert R. Combs were promoted to the grade of Technical Sergeant per Paragraph Number 15, Special Order Number 204, dated 1 September, Headquarters, Air Force General Depot Number 1.

Sept. 4. Nothing of importance happened today. Some of the men enjoyed a good swim at the beach but ventured the opinion that the water was a bit cool.

Sept. 5. The company Supply Sergeant was kept very busy today. He had all the members of the company bring their gas masks to the supply. He and his helpers exchanged the old type container for the new "yellow top" type.

Sept. 6. PFC Bernard Huffer returned to duty today. He had been in the 151st Station Hospital for several days with a stubborn case of dysentery.

Sept. 7. Regular duties were carried out today. Quite a number of men were observed "sweating out" the ice cream line at the Red Cross Service Club.

Sept. 8. PFC Warner G. Shelton was promoted to the grade of Technician Fifth Grade per Paragraph Number 6, Special Order Number 3, dated 7 September, 1943, Headquarters, Oran Intransit Center.

Sept. 9. The Radar section of our command expanded today with the acquisition of the following named enlisted men: Technical Sergeant Guy M. Saba, Technician Third Grade Cecil A. Griffin, Technician Fourth Grade Clarence A. Martin and Technician Fourth Grade Mirhan D. Parigian. The above named were assigned and joined from Headquarters, XII Air Service Command per Paragraph Number 6, Special Order Number 235, dated 7 September, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command.

Sept. 10. Technician Fifth Grade Warner G. Shelton, who has been a very valuable man in our Cryptographic section for several months, was released from duty and assigned to the 1065th Signal Company, Service Group, per Paragraph Number 4, Special Order Number 236, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command, dated 8 September, 1943.

Sept. 11. Howard P. Tinney, Motor Pool Sergeant for the past several months, was reduced to the grade of Private per Paragraph Number 6, Special Order Number 6, dated 10 September, 1943, Headquarters, Oran Intransit Center. Technician Fifth Grade Ralph S. Biddinger, Chief Company Clerk, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant per Paragraph Number 9, Special Order Number 7, dated 11 October, 1943, Headquarters, Oran Intransit Center.

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Page 2, Company History, 1033rd Signal Company.

Sept. 12. Staff Sergeant Floyd V. Simmons, Radio Operator, was sent to the 180th Station Hospital today. The final recreation beach trip of the season was made. The men have lost interest noticeably in the past two weeks due to cooler weather.

Sept. 13. The personnel of this base was warned via the Daily Bulletin that too many soldiers were trading excessive amounts of cigarettes and other PX supplies to the French and Arab civilians. These supplies have been finding their way into the Black Market. The soldiers were warned that they were violating the 84th article of war and were subject to courts martial under said article. Our company carried out garrison duties in the usual efficient manner.

Sept. 14. Private Ernest B. Thompson, Company Carpenter, was sent to the 7th Station Hospital for treatment and possible operation for hernia.

Sept. 15. Private Charley W. Talley who has been in our message center for a short while was released and assigned to the 38th Air Depot Group per Paragraph Number 22, Special Order Number 10, dated 14 September, 1943, Headquarters, Oran Intransit Center. In the Daily Bulletin Section IV, Circular 174, Headquarters, MATOUSA, dated 8 September, 1943, was quoted and gave the information that no officer candidates from this theatre of operations will be returned to the United States for training. Nor would direct appointments be continued. Several men in our company who had been anticipating applying for direct appointments were disappointed.

Sept. 16. PFC Bernard Haffer, completely recovered from his attack of dysentery, was released from the 151st Station Hospital and returned to duty in the telephone section. Private James Schrimsher was assigned to and joined our command from the 1056th Military Police Company per Paragraph Number 2, Special Order Number 12, dated 16 September, 1943, Headquarters, Oran Intransit Center. Private Schrimsher was placed in the message center.

Sept. 17. Staff Sergeant Floyd V. Simmons was released from the 180th Station Hospital and returned to duty in the Radio Operations section. Sergeant John M. Gillespie was transferred into our company from the 751st Chemical Depot in the grade of Private, per Paragraph Number 18, Special Order Number 10, dated September 14, 1943, Headquarters, Oran Intransit Center. Private John M. Gillespie was promoted to the grade of Technician Fifth Grade per Paragraph Number 3, Special Order Number 13, dated 17 September, 1943, Headquarters, Oran Intransit Center. Corporal Gillespie is to divide his time between the Orderly Room and the Cryptographic section. Sergeant Littleton D. Stewart of the telephone section was reduced to the grade of Private per Paragraph Number 2, Special Order Number 13, dated 17 September, 1943, Headquarters, Oran Intransit Center.

Sept. 18. Nothing of importance to report. Most of the men enjoyed the show at the Base theatre, "Young Thomas Edison", starring Mickey Rooney.

Sept. 19. 2nd Lieutenant George W. Long who has been on detached service, reported for duty in the Radar section per Paragraph Number 6, Special Order Number 215, dated 18 August, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command. Technician Fifth Grade James Ingram, one of our cooks, was sent to the 7th Station Hospital for treatment of either a tooth or gland ailment.

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Page 3, Company History, 1033rd Signal Company.

Sept. 20. No changes to report today. Quite a number of men were seen passing footballs in front of the barracks. Another group was observed playing basketball in preparation for a game with a local French team.

Sept. 21. Technician 4th Grade Fredrick E. Lewis, Radio Operator, and Technician 5th Grade Harry C. Brock, Message Center Clerk, were reduced to the grade of Private per Paragraph 4, Special Order Number 17, date d 21 September, 1943, Headquarters, Gran Intransit Center. Private Ernest B. Thompson, Company Carpenter, was relieved from duty and assigned to the 21st General Hospital per Section 1, Circular Number 65, Headquarters, MATOUSA, dated 20 April, 1943. Authority, Commanding Officer, 7th General Hospital.

Sept. 22. 2nd Lieutenant John C. Bleassey, Radar Officer, entered the 151st Station Hospital for a minor operation. MBS via the Daily Bulletin, declared another portion of Gran "off limits" to American soldiers.

Sept. 23. Nothing of particular importance to report except an observation that the weather is becoming much cooler. The Supply Sergeant is having daily requests from different men for additional blankets.

Sept. 24. The Non-Commissioned Officer's Club reopened on the Base and will operate four nights a week from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. One of the best shows staged overseas was presented at the Base theatre, "Hey Rookie" starred Sterling Holloway of Radio and Screen fame, well supported by an all star cast of enlisted men. Everyone who saw it agreed that it was the best show ever staged on this Base.

Sept. 25. 1st Lieutenant Kenneth A. Wright was placed on detached service with our Company for approximately 15 days per Paragraph Number 25, Special Order Number 252, dated 24 September, 1943, Headquarters, XII Air Force Service Command. We engaged a team of French soldiers in a game of basketball. They drubbed us pretty badly. We believe that with a few days practice we can win from them handily. Technical Sergeant John Semrinec, our team manager, promised to get us a basketball and call some practice sessions in preparation for a return game with the French.

Sept. 26. Technician 5th Grade James Ingram returned from the hospital to duty as a cook. He is not fully recovered from his ailment, but the local dispensary can dress the wound for him each day.

Sept. 27. The men of this Base were warned that if field jackets were worn they would be buttoned at all times. They were further warned that sweaters would not be worn as an outer garment at any time.

Sept. 28. 2nd Lieutenant Bleassey of the Radar section was released from the 151st Station Hospital and returned to duty after having undergone a minor operation.

Sept. 29. Today we had a good basketball practice in preparation for a return game with the French soldiers Saturday. Manager Sergeant Semrinec made good his promise to procure us a basketball. The team members firmly believe they will trounce the Frenchmen on Saturday.

Sept. 30. Another busy day for Lieutenant Heid and Sergeant Biddinger, the men who "pay off". It was a very quiet day. Only a few men asked for passes, even

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Page 4, Company History, 1033rd Signal Company

though it was pay day. That goes to bear out the belief we hold that pay day just doesn't mean a thing in North Africa.

For the Commanding Officer:

Roy E. M. Reid
ROY E. M. REID,
1st Lt., Sig. C.,
Per Officer.

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RETURNED THE ARCHIVES THE AAF HISTORICAL SECTION	NOV-1943	516-1033-S4-RF-D
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S E C R E T
HEADQUARTERS

1033rd Signal Company, Service Group
Sub-Depot Number 12
APC 528 U. S. Army

was Henry
~~Company History~~ 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group A. P. O.
528, U. S. Army. Month of November, 1943.

November 1

First Lieutenant Roy E. M. Reid was released from further duty with this organization and assigned to the 1032nd Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph Number 4 Special Order Number 285 dated 27 October, 1943 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command. Lieutenant Reid has been Personnel Officer of our organization for the past four months. Everyone from this Command wish him good luck in his new position.

November 2

Nothing of importance happened today. The movie, "Oxbow Incident" with Henry Fonda and Dana Andrews, was shown at the Base Theater.

November 3

Staff Sergeant William T. Halloran, of the Radar Section, was released from the 151st Station Hospital. He was still a bit weak from a three week seige of Jaundice. First Lieutenant Robert H. Jackson, Base Security Officer, was released from further assignment and duty with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 19th Air Depot Group and assigned to our organization per Paragraph Number 8 Special Order Number 191 dated 31 October, 1943 Headquarters I Air Service Area Command.

November 4

Sergeant Edmund R. Conley, Chief Switchboard Operator, was sent to the 151st Station Hospital. Lieutenant Bleazey, Technical Sergeant Mortwedt, and Staff Sergeant Clarke were picked by our Company Commander to represent our organization at a lecture on Fire Prevention to be held on 8 November, 1943.

November 5

Private Jacob R. Hamilton and Private Raymond L. Middlemas were assigned and joined our organization from the 22nd Replacement Pool, per Paragraph Number 22 Special Order Number 92 dated 2 November, 1943. Headquarters 22nd Replacement Battalion. Technical Sergeant Roy D. Baker, of the Signal Depot Section, was released from the 151st Station Hospital. Roy had been gravely ill for a month as the result of a fractured skull.

November 6

Second Lieutenant George W. Long, of the Radar Section, was releived from duty with our organization and assigned to the 915th Signal Depot Company (Avn) per Paragraph Number 4 Special Order Number 291 dated 2 November, 1943 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command. The Enlisted Men's Red Cross Snack Bar was officially opened today. Coffee and sandwiches are to be served daily from 2 to 4 and 7 to 10 P. M.

S E C R E T
November 7

Second Lieutenant James T. Huston, of the Radar Section was relieved from duty and assigned to the 1073rd Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph Number 8 Special Order Number 292 dated 3 November, 1943 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command. Lieutenant Huston was very popular with the enlisted men of this Command. He took an active part in athletics. The men in his section, particularly, hated to see him go. It's good luck to Lieutenants Huston and Long from the 1033rd.

November 8

Second Lieutenant John C. Bleazey, Technical Sergeant Roy D. Baker, and Technician 4th Grade Otto F. Hennekens left for Detached service at 1300 hours today per Paragraph Number 2 Special Order Number 61 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12. Technician 5th Grade Osborne A. Whorton was sent to the 151st Station Hospital where he will be confined for some time with the Jaundice. Technician 5th Grade Alton Gould was transferred to our Command from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron XII Air Force Service Command per Paragraph Number 1 Special Order Number 296 dated 7 November, 1943 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command. Lieutenant Bleazey, Technical Sergeant Mortwedt and Staff Sergeant Clarke attended a lecture on Fire Prevention at 0900 hours in Hangar 94.

November 9

The town of La Senia, a bare half-mile from our base was declared Off-Limits to all personnel of this Command.

November 10

Sergeant Edmund R. Conley and Private First Class Robert S. German were dismissed from the 151st Station Hospital and returned to duty. Sergeant Conley had been treated for Influenza and Private First Class German for Jaundice.

November 11

A short, but impressive Flag Ceremony was observed on the base to commemorate the Armistice of the last war. Second Lieutenant Bleazey, Technical Sergeant Baker and Technician 4th Grade Hennekens returned from Detached Service to duty at 1300 hours.

November 12

There was a test blackout of the base and surrounding territory. The stage show "Ten Minute Break" was given in the Base Theater. It was a very enjoyable show with some very good original songs and good female impersonations by the all "G.I." cast.

November 13

Another Saturday night and another Red Cross Dance. The jitter-bugs report that the Native girls are growing more adept at dancing the light fantastic, the American way.

November 14

There was a large turn-out at church today. The chapel has undergone a complete renovation. The men were very happy over the fact we now have real pews with backs on them. The chapel has certainly been

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November 14 con't.

improved upon and the whole base is greatly obliged to those men responsible for the changes.

November 15

Technical Sergeant Guy M. Saba, Technician 3rd Grade Cecil A. Griffin, Technician 4th Grade Clarence A. Martin, and Technician 4th Grade Mirham D. Parigian, all of the Radar Section, were released and assigned to the 915th Signal Company, Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 5 Special Order 66 dated 12 November 1943 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12.

November 16

Private First Class Cyrus Byrne was taken to the 151st Station Hospital today as a result of a peculiar accident. Cy had an ash tray made from the top of a piston. The ash tray was lying by his bed and when, in the midst of a nightmare, Cy fell out of bed and his hip struck the side of the ash tray and it seemed to paralyze his whole leg. He will be hospitalized for at least a week.

November 17

First Lieutenant John C. Beirne who has been on Detached Service was released to return to his own Station per Paragraph 5 Special Order 69 dated 15 November, 1943 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12. Technician 5th Grade Osborne Whorton, who had been confined in the 151st Station Hospital for several days with the Jaundice, was released to duty.

November 18

Second Lieutenant Edgar O. Parker, Technical Sergeant Herman R. Petty, Technical Sergeant Jack R. Onstett, Staff Sergeant Edward R. Webb, Sergeant John W. Devine, and Sergeant George J. Wendal were placed on Detached Service with us per Paragraph 8 Special Order 301 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 12 November, 1943. Technical Sergeant Wilbur B. Canfield and Sergeant Anthony Basile were sent on Detached Service per Paragraph 3 Special Order Number 70 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 70 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12 dated 17 November, 1943.

November 19

Second Lieutenant John C. Bleazey went on Detached Service per Paragraph 2 Special Order 70 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12 dated 17 November, 1943. Private First Class Kenneth H. Franklin, Private First Class Manly N. Nelson, Private Russell J. Bigelow, Private Walter E. Ciecko, Private Elmer H. Iserhott, and Private Raymond C. Schular were assigned and joined our organization from the 319th Signal Company, Wing per Paragraph 9 Special Order 306 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 17 November, 1943.

November 20

There were some very distinguished visitors on the base today but the average men were not able to ascertain just who they were. It made good fuel for Latrine rumors. Our Company Commander called all the men together and explained a few things which are likely to happen to our organization for the next few weeks. Master Sergeant J. D. Sheppard, Technical Sergeant Sledge Scruggs, Technical Sergeant Geo. W. Snyder Jr., and Technical Sergeant Lindel C. Waugh were placed on Detached Service to this base from the 319th Signal Company, Wing and then attach to our Command for rations, quarters, and administration, per Paragraph 2 Special Order 22 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12.

S E C R E T
November 21

Technician 3rd Grade Michael Lapcewich was sent on Detached Service per Paragraph 2 Special Order Number 70 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12 dated 17 November, 1943.

November 22

Captain Nowak was given four Gazelle today. He is giving the whole Company a feast of fresh meat for their meal on Wednesday at noon. Master Sergeant Pole, Master Sergeant Sheppard, Technical Sergeant Taugh, Staff Sergeant Clarke, Technician 4th Grade Holtvogt, and Technician 5th Grade Holey went to Mastagenom to pack up the new switchboard which we are getting. They expect to have it ready to transport to our base shortly.

November 23

Second Lieutenant John C. Bleazey, Technical Sergeant Wilbur B. Canfield, Technician 3rd Grade Michael Lapcewich and Sergeant Anthony J. Basile returned to duty from Detached Service. Master Sergeant Pole and Staff Sergeant Gulley were busily engaged in starting the installing of the new switchboard.

November 24

First Sergeant Biggers, Staff Sergeant Clarke, Technician 4th Grade Bacon and Technician 5th Grade Donaldson went on Detached Service per Paragraph 3 Special Order Number 76 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12.

November 25

This marks the second Thanksgiving which this organization has spent over seas. Everyone is hoping that this is the last one. Mess Sergeant Sapenski and his corps of kitchen help certainly did themselves proud with their Thanksgiving meal. Turkey with all the trimmings and good pumpkin pie. Second Lieutenant Poticney, Technical Sergeant Isaacs and Sergeant Farr returned from thirty days of Detached Service to Sicily. They say that Sicily is much better than North Africa.

November 26

Technician 4th Grade Raymond H. Sewell and Technician 5th Grade Glenn S. Gage went on Detached Service per Paragraph 1 Special Order Number 78 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12 dated 25 November, 1943. First Sergeant Biggers, Staff Sergeant Clarke, Technician 4th Grade Bacon, and Technician 5th Grade Donaldson returned from Detached Service.

November 27

The work on the installation of the new switchboard is moving along nicely. Master Sergeant Pole and Staff Sergeant Gulley are working almost day and night in order to rush up the job as much as possible. We were scheduled to play our first game in the Touch and Pass Football League today but our opponents for the game called up to post-pone it to a later date.

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November 27 con't.

Cyrus Byrne, of the Teletype Section, returned from the 151st Hospital to duty. First Lieutenant Robert H. Jackson, head of the Cryptographic Section, was released from duty and assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron II Air Service Area Command Special per Paragraph 2 Special Order 312, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 23 November, 1943.

November 28

Second Lieutenant Lawrence A. Wise was assigned and joined our organization per Paragraph 7 Special Order Number 314 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 25 November, 1943. Technician 4th Grade Raymond H. Sewell and Technician Glenn S. Gragg returned from Detached Service to duty at 1600 hours today.

November 29

Private First Class Frederick Schmidt was sent to the 151st Hospital from the effects of a tooth infection. Quite a number of the men were happy over receiving Christmas packages from home.

November 30

Our organization had quite a feast today. The Gazelle meat prepared by the Nuns at the Convent was served at the noon meal. Our cooks did themselves proud with the remainder of the menu consisting of mashed potatoes, string beans, pickles, cinnamon rolls, coffee, and fresh oranges. The men agreed that the meal was almost, if not quite, as good as the Thanksgiving meal last Thursday. Our distinguished guests for the fine meal included: Major Fadel, Major McIntyre, Major May, Captain McQueen, Captain Wilmont, Lieutenant Barnes, and Lieutenant Eiler, an Army Nurse, and our own officers; Captain Nowak, Lieutenant Bleazey, Lieutenant Poticny, Lieutenant Wise, and Warrant Officer Schmidt.

John C. Bleazey
JOHN C. BLEAZEY
2nd Lt., Sig. C.
Per. Officer.

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T
HEADQUARTERS

1033rd Signal Company, Service Group
A F Sub-Depot Number 12
APO 528 U. S. Army

Company History 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group
A. P. O. 528, U. S. Army. Month of December, 1943.

December 1 1943

Today saw quite a few changes in the organization. Privates Severe Beaulieu, Harry C. Brock, William F. Campbell Jr., Charles D. Pettry, and Howard P. Tinney were promoted to the grade of Private First Class per Paragraph 1 Company Order Number 22 Headquarters 1033rd Signal Company, Service Group dated 1 December, 1943, Authority: Army Regulation 615-5. Private First Class Fredrick Schmidt was released from the 151st Station Hospital and returned to duty. Technical Sergeant Arnold L. Morrison, Staff Sergeant Leland S. Gray, Staff Sergeant James K. Hendrick, Staff Sergeant Robert J. Murphy, and Sergeant Elmer D. Huntoon were assigned and joined our organization from the 914th Signal Company Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 5 Special Order Number 316 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 27 November, 1943.

December 2

Private First Class Fredrick E. Lewis, one of our Radio operators was promoted to the grade of Technician 5th Grade, per Paragraph 6, Special Order 84 Headquarters, Sub-Depot Number 12 dated 1 December, 1943.

December 3

Master Sergeant J. D. (IO) Sheppard and Technical Sergeant George N. Snider were released from Detached Service with our Command and assigned to us from the 319th Signal Company Wing, per Paragraph Number 10 Special Order Number 319 dated 30 November, 1943 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command.

December 4

Second Lieutenant Parker, Technical Sergeant Herman R. Petty, Technical Sergeant Jack R. Onstatt, Staff Sergeant Edward D. Webb, Sergeant John J. Devine, and Sergeant George J. Wendell were released from further Detached Service and returned to their proper Station, 1085th Signal Company Service Group per Paragraph 3 Special Order 301 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 12 November, 1943. The men who attended the Protestant Church Services were greatly pleased to see Captain Stansberry, the former Base Chaplin, in the pulpit. He preached a very good sermon.

December 5

Technical Sergeant Sledge Scruggs and Technical Sergeant Lindel C. Waugh were released from further Detached Service with our organization and assigned to the 1085th Signal Company, Service Group per Paragraph 11 Special Order 319 Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 30 November, 1943.

S E C R E T

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December 6

Today Warrant Officer Schmidt procured for our Company a thirty-five gallon barrell of real American beer. The beer lovers of the organization pronounced their seal of approval after the first few canteen cupfuls had been emptied.

December 7

Sergeant James F. Gover, Sergeant Paul F. Streifer, and Technician 4th Grade Joe F. Bacon left for Cryptographic School in Algiers per Paragraph 2 Special Order Number 86 Headquarters Sub-Depot Number 12 dated 3 December, 1943. The school will last thirty days. Master Sergeant J. D. (IO) Sheppard and Private First Class Harry C. Brock were sent on Detached Service to Message Center School per Paragraph 1 Special Order 317 as amended Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 18 November, 1943. The school will last approximately 21 days. On the Second Anniversary of Pearl Harbor the men in this Section seemed more determined than ever to put an early end to the war.

December 8

The picture "Zigfield Girl", starring Lana Turner and James Stewart was shown at the Base Theater. The M.C.O. Club has been moved to a new location. The new place is very attractively decorated. The Club will be operated by and under the supervision of the M.C.O.'s. Wine and American type beer will be offered for sale. We were advised by Base Headquarters that because beer rations for this Club are drawn against the enlisted strength of the Base, it will be impossible for Units to obtain beer directly from the brewery.

December 9

Technician 5th Grade John V. Miller, of the Cryptographic Section, was sent to the 151st Hospital with a severe case of "Boils". Technician 3rd Grade William A. Anderson, Technician 4th Grade Raymond Brame, Technician 4th Grade John M. Althoff and Technician 5th Grade James Ingram were sent on Detached Service for approximately three days per Paragraph 4 Special Order Number 89, as amended, Headquarters Air Force Sub Depot Number 12, dated 6 December, 1943.

December 10

Warrant Officer Schmidt and his Staff at the Signal Depot were busily engaged in a huge loading job, despite the rainy weather.

December 11

The weekly "Stars And Stripes" were not delivered today. This was due, no doubt, to transportation problems brought on by the heavy rains. Technician 3rd Grade William A. Anderson, Technician 4th Grade Raymond Brame, Technician 4th Grade John M. Althoff and Technician 5th Grade James Ingram returned from Detached Service to duty.

December 12

This was another rainy Sunday. There was a good turn-out for church. Some of the Radio Maintenance had to work all day on the French Airplane Radio Installations. These men are doing a good job on these installations.

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December 13

We had our first basketball workout of the season. Private Hamilton was selected as manager and coach. Ham was outstanding in football and basketball in his high school days, finished only recently in New Jersey. He should make us an excellent coach. The prospects look fairly good for a good team.

December 14

Coach Hamilton attended a called meeting of the Basketball Managers of the Base. Plans were drawn up for the formation of a Basketball League for the Base. Master Sergeant Spears of Headquarters Squadron was in charge of the meeting.

December 15

More Christmas packages came in today. Some of the men who have transferred recently received as many as forty letters plus several packages.

December 16

The rain still continued today. This is the third straight day of rain. Our men are thankful that they are in good barracks and not in pup tents and huts as they were during the rainy season last year.

December 17

We played our first scrimmage basketball game. The men participating found themselves to be in very poor condition. They looked fairly good for the first few minutes and then they could hardly travel from one goal to the other. Coach "Ham" Hamilton did, however, get a good look at his squad under game conditions. Sergeants Hedrick and Murphy, two new Radar men, showed up particularly well. When asked how his squad looked in practice, "Ham" frowningly replied, "Not too good but we'll win a few ball games in this man's league, we've got some good boys out." The Base Inspector visited our Barracks and mess hall and pronounced them in good shape.

December 18

Today our Commanding Officer, Captain Nowak, suggested that our Company have a gala New Year's party. The suggestion was accepted with enthusiasm by the enlisted men of the Organization. A committee of seven men was appointed by First Sergeant Biggers to work out the plans for the party.

December 19

Second Lieutenant John C. Bleazey, Technical Sergeant Hobart R. Combs, Technician Third Grade Michael Lapowich, Sergeant John W. Beissel, and Technician Fourth Grade Michael J. Pehey were sent on Detached Service with the 907th Signal Company Depot (Avn) per Paragraph 1 Special Order 323, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 9 December, 1943.

December 20

There was an excellent picture at the Base Theater. "The Keeper of the Flame" starring Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy.

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December 21

First Lieutenant Lloyd (LMI) Froland, who was assigned to our organization from the 1062nd Signal Company Service Group, and immediately sent on Detached Service with the 907th Signal Company Depot (Avn), arrived for duty today per Paragraph 4 Special Order 314, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command, dated 25 November, 1943.

December 22

The men of the original 53rd Organization marked their first anniversary on North African shores sometime during December 21. Today marks the end of one year on the base here at La Senia. This is one of the very few organizations which has been fortunate, or unfortunate as the case may be, enough to remain in one place for a full year. There have been many changes on the base in the year. Our men are agreed that we are in much better circumstances as to living conditions, food, and general outlook for the Christmas holidays. The world outlook is much brighter too, for the Allies.

December 23

Master Sergeant Frank R. Pole was sent on Detached Service per Paragraph 4 Special Order 92, Headquarters Air Force Sub Depot Number 12, dated 10 December, 1943. Technician 4th Grade Robert G. Larson and Technician 5th Grade Howard W. Donohoe were reduced to the grade of Private for misconduct per Paragraph 4 Special Order 102, Headquarters Air Force Sub Depot Number 12, dated 20 December, 1943. Technician 5th Grade John Y. Miller, one of our Cryptographic men, was released from the 151st Station Hospital.

December 24

Sergeants Kaminsky and Wickman worked hard all day decorating our mess hall for Christmas and for our New Year's party. They certainly did a wonderful job with the materials they had to work with. Our Base Commander and Company Commander issued orders that all men possible were to be free of duty on Christmas day. Snatches of "Silent Night" and other Christmas Carols were heard throughout the day.

December 25

Today was the second Christmas overseas for most of the men in this organization. This was a much better Christmas than the one we spent on this base in 1942. We had one of the best meals we have ever had at noontime. Our cooks certainly did themselves proud. The menu consisted of baked turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, olives, pumpkin pie, white bread, butter, coffee and finally two oranges and a bag of assorted hard candies. After the meal our Captain read us Christmas greetings from President Roosevelt, General Eisenhower, and General Marshall. After he finished reading these greetings, the Captain added his own good wishes and started the group to singing Christmas carols by leading "Silent Night." The men all agreed that we had the finest Christmas possible under the circumstances.

December 26

Things were back to normal today after a very enjoyable Christmas on this base. Of course there were a few "beer heads" at getting up times today--but that was to be expected. Nineteen men of the 12th Weather Station of this base were attached to our organization for rations.

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December 27

Technical Sergeant Baker, chairman of the committee to organize our New Year's party, reported that the plans are coming along nicely. The greatest problem to date is finding a Dance Band. The men are looking forward to a very enjoyable evening. The picture "Slightly Dangerous" with Lana Turner and Robert Young played at the Base Theater.

December 28

We made our debut in the Base Basketball League with a dope upsetting win over one of the favorite teams. In a practice tilt a few nights ago this same team gave us a severe drubbing. The entire team played exceptionally good basketball. Our opponents led at the half 11 to 12. With the help of some beautiful long baskets by Technical Sergeant Semrinec and good ball handling by all the men we were able to over come the lead and then blaze on to a 26 to 23 win.

December 29

Master Sergeant Pole returned from Detached Service to duty at 0800 hours. Staff Sergeant James A. Clarke was sent on Detached Service with 323rd Service Group per Paragraph 4 Special Order 108, Headquarters Air Force Sub Depot Number 12 dated 27 December, 1943. Master Sergeant J. D. Sheppard and Private First Class Harry C. Brock returned from Detached Service to duty.

December 30

Second Lieutenant George R. Northup was assigned and joined our organization from XII Air Force Service Command per Paragraph 15 Special Order 347, Headquarters XII Air Force Service Command dated 29 December, 1943. Technical Sergeant Baker and his committee for the gala New Year's Eve Party were very busy today making all the necessary plans.

December 31

This was a "big" day for the organization. First of all it was pay day. Then it ended our eighteenth month over seas and finally it was the night for our great New Year's Party. The party was a huge success. The committee in charge are to be congratulated for putting on a fine show. The decorations were beautiful--almost like other New Year's parties we've known in the states. The Navy Orchestra was good. The drinks were good and plentiful. The eats were very tasty and even the French ladies were able to almost fill their hand bags with sandwiches. There were more than enough girls. The girls were more attractive than the average that come to the Red Cross Dances. I think that all officers and enlisted men of the organization are agreed that we had as good time as it is possible to have in a foreign land under war conditions.

As the curtain falls on 1943 we feel that we are much nearer to the goal of victory than we were a year ago. The year has been comparatively uneventful for us. We have spent the entire year on this base. However, we feel that we have worked hard and have done our part well. As we go into the new year we wonder where we will be sent. Most of us feel that this new year will see the complete downfall of our enemies and have fond hopes of spending next New Years in our respective homes.

For the Commanding Officer:

Laurence A. Wise
LAURENCE A. WISE,
2nd Lt., Sig. C.
Per. Officer.

S E C R E T

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Researched by Roger Montemayor, son of the late
Technician Fifth Grade Arthur J. Montemayor,
1029th Signal Company.

Constructed by Roger Montemayor and Leonard
H. Cizewski

November 26, 2023