~~RESTRICTED~~

877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT AVN
16TH AIR DEPOT GROUP

:S E C R E T
:AUTH: CO, 16th ADG
:DATE: 5 May 1945
:INIT: ...

J-P/s SIG-877-HI
20 Dec 43 —
12 Apr 45

APO 149, U. S. Army
3 May 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 16th Air Depot Group, Strip Y-56, APO 149, U. S. Army.

In compliance with letter, Headquarters, 16th ADG, Subject same as above, dated 30 April 1945, the following information is submitted herewith:

a. UNIT DESIGNATIONS

		PARENT UNIT
877th Signal Company Depot Avn	20 Dec 43	9th Air Force Service Command
877th Signal Company Depot Avn	12 Feb 44	16th Air Depot Group

b. COMMANDING OFFICER NAMES

Hieny Marion F.	**2d Lt**	**Signal Corps**	**27 Dec 43**	**Assumed Command**
JOSEPH A. PLIHAL, Major,		Signal Corps	28 Dec 43	Signal Depot Commander
JAMES E. GLEASON, 1st Lt.		Signal Corps	13 Jan 44	Acting Company Commander
WILLIAM T. WILLS, Capt.,		Signal Corps	15 Feb 44	Company Commander

c. MOVEMENT

AAF - Station 537 - Trowbridge, England (Activated)	20 Dec 43: Personnel 27 Dec 43
AAF - Station 466 - Membury, Berks	4 Jan 44
Port of Embarkation, Southhampton, Hants, England	10 Jul 44
Lemoley, Calvados, France, Strip A-9	15 Jul 44
Reims, Marne, France, Strip A-62-D	25 Sept 44
Munchen Gladbach, Rheinland, Germany, Strip Y-56	12 Apr 45

J. A. PLIHAL
Major, Sig. C.
Unit Commander

~~RESTRICTED~~

THE ARCHIVES
AAF
HISTORICAL OFFICE
516-877-HI(a)
31 DEC 1943

877th Signal Company, Depot, Com
28 Dec 1942 - 31 May 1944

MICROFILMED

SIG-877-N.I
28 DEC 1943

SECRET
AUTH: CG, 2ND AA
DA, IX AFSC
INITIALS
13 APR 1944

SECRET

COMPANY HISTORY

877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN)

THE 877TH SIG CO DEP (AVN) WAS ACTIVATED PER GENERAL ORDER NO. 44, HEADQUARTERS, AIR SERVICE COMMAND, PARAGRAPH 2, DATED 28 DECEMBER 1943.

ORGANIZATION ASSIGNED THIS STATION, PER PARAGRAPH 5, SPECIAL ORDER 3, HEADQUARTERS 13TH REPLACEMENT CONTROL DEPOT, DATED 3 JANUARY 1944.

THE 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN) HAD, AS AN OFFICER CADRE, THREE OFFICERS: CAPT. JOSEPH A. PLIHAL, 2ND LT. MARION F. HIENY, AND 2ND LT. JAMES E. GLEASON. ONE ENLISTED MAN -- SGT. BALL ON ORIGINAL ORDERS.

CAPTAIN J. A. PLIHAL ASSUMED COMMAND AS SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT COMMANDER AS OF 28 DECEMBER 1943 WITH TWO JUNIOR OFFICERS AS YET UNASSIGNED TO SPECIFIC DUTIES IN COMPANY.

ON 30 DECEMBER 1943, THIRTEEN EM ASSIGNED AND JOINED PER PAR 11, SO 69, HQ, 13TH RCD, DATED 30 DEC 1943.

THE ORGANIZATION, WITH THESE OFFICERS AND MEN, REPORTED TO AAF STATION 466, AND WERE ASSIGNED TO 6TH TACTICAL AIR DEPOT. THE MEN WERE ATTACHED TO 96TH DEPOT REPAIR SQUADRON FOR RATIONS ONLY, AND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN OPERATIONS.

DURING THE PERIOD FROM 30 DECEMBER 1943, ADDITIONAL OFFICERS AND MEN WERE ASSIGNED TO ORGANIZATION, AND ON 13 JANUARY 1944 COMPANY ORDER NO. 1 APPOINTED 2ND LT. JAMES E. GLEASON, O-1644362, ACTING COMPANY COMMANDER, COMPANY MESS, SUPPLY, AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICER. LT. MARION F. HIENY, O-1643674, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER; 2ND LT. VICTOR R. ROBINSON, SR., O-1644370, RADIO MAINTENANCE OFFICER; WO JG SALVADORE P. SPADARO, W-2105730, GROUND RADAR OFFICER; 1ST LT. WILLIS S. VAN SCOY, O-1638717,

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SIGNAL SUPPLY OFFICER, AND JOSEPH R. RIORDON, 33194606, ACTING FIRST SERGEANT.

2ND LT. HOWARD L. BEARD WAS ASSIGNED AND JOINED ORGANIZATION 15 JANUARY 1944. CWO GERALD BUSH ASSIGNED AND JOINED ORGANIZATION 18 JANUARY 1944. ON 21 JANUARY 1944, LT BEARD APPOINTED ASSISTANT RADIO OFFICER, AND CWO BUSH APPOINTED WIRE MAINTENANCE OFFICER.

DURING THIS TIME, THE ORGANIZATION HAD BECOME OPERATIONAL AS TO MESSAGE CENTER, WIRE AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS. THE SIGNAL SUPPLY WAREHOUSE AND RADIO REPAIR SHOP, HAVING BEEN ASSIGNED BUILDINGS, WERE PREPARING BUILDINGS FOR OPERATION.

20 JANUARY 1944, FORTY-FOUR MEN OF THE 1113TH SIGNAL COMPANY SERVICE GROUP WERE ATTACHED TO THIS ORGANIZATION FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD, WITH ONE OFFICER, 2ND LT. BECKER. THESE MEN WERE IMMEDIATELY ASSIGNED DUTIES IN ORGANIZATION AND SUPPLEMENTED THIS ORGANIZATION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES. GRADUALLY THESE MEN WERE RECALLED TO PARENT ORGANIZATION AND ON 31 JANUARY 1944 WERE RELIEVED FROM DUTY THIS ORGANIZATION AND RETURNED TO PROPER STATION.

9 FEBRUARY 1944, 1ST LT. WILLIAM T. WILLS ASSIGNED THIS ORGANIZATION AND ASSUMED DUTIES AS COMPANY COMMANDER RELIEVING 2ND LT. JAMES E. GLEASON.

FROM PERIOD OF ACTIVATION AND ASSIGNMENT TO THIS STATION, THE 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY HAD GRADUALLY INCREASED ITS NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN AND HAD BECOME COMPLETELY OPERATIONAL IN ALL PHASES OF ITS WORK. WITH THE HANDICAP OF RECEIVING ALL ORGANIZATIONAL EQUIPMENT PIECEMEAL, CAPTAIN PLIHAL, SIGNAL DEPOT COMMANDER, ACCOMPLISHED A SATISFACTORY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM PLUS A SIGNAL SUPPLY SYSTEM IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES AS DEPOT SIGNAL OFFICER.

THE 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN) WHICH BEGAN OPERATIONS

1196

UNDER THE 6TH TACTICAL AIR DEPOT HAS SINCE DECEMBER FOURTH INCREASED ITS PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY MANIFOLD. THE ORGANIZATION HAS INCREASED SINCE THAT TIME FROM THIRTEEN MEN AND THREE OFFICERS TO THE PRESENT STRENGTH OF TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO MEN ASSIGNED AND FOURTY-FOUR ATTACHED MEN. THESE ATTACHED MEN ARE TO ATTEND A RADIO SCHOOL WHICH BEGAN AS OF APRIL FIRST, NINETEEN FOURTY-FOUR.

THIS ORGANIZATION IS NOW CONDUCTING SCHOOLS IN RADIO REPAIR, TELETYPE OPERATION AND VERY HIGH FREQUENCY, DIRECTION FINDING RADIO. ORGANIZATION ALSO OPERATES COURIER SERVICE, OUT OF MESSAGE CENTER COVERING APPROXIMATELY TWO THOUSAND MILES A WEEK AND SERVING A LARGE NUMBER OF AIR FORCE STATIONS. THIS COURIER SERVICE WAS INAUGURATED DESPITE THE FACT THAT SUFFICIENT VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL WERE NOT AUTHORIZED BY TABLES OF ORGANIZATION AND WITH PERSONNEL UNTRAINED FOR SUCH DUTY. THESE OBSTACLES HAVE BEEN OVERCOME BY DOUBLE AND CROSS-TRAINING OF PERSONNEL AND THE CONSTANT UTILIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL VEHICLES PLUS VEHICLES DRAWN FROM GROUP MOTOR POOL. THE MEN, ACTING AS COURIERS, HAVE UNDERGONE STRENUOUS "ON THE JOB TRAINING" AND HAVE SATISFACTORILY EXECUTED THEIR MISSION.

THE DEPOT MESSAGE CENTER, OPERATED BY THIS ORGANIZATION, BEGAN WITH TOTALLY INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND UNTRAINED PERSONNEL, BUT THROUGH CROSS TRAINING AND ON THE JOB INSTRUCTION HAVE SATISFACTORILY OPERATED AND MAINTAINED MESSAGE CENTER OPERATION. IT WAS NECESSARY, BEING IN NEED OF PERSONNEL, TO HAVE SOME PERSONNEL BE ON TWENTY-FOUR HOUR CALL FOR DUTY UNTIL NEW PERSONNEL COULD BE TRAINED TO HANDLE THEIR SPECIFIC DUTIES AND INSURE "GETTING THE MESSAGE THROUGH."

THE MOBILE GROUND RADAR REPAIR SECTION NOW HAS, IN OPERATION, FOUR MOBILE REPAIR TEAMS SERVING INSTALLATIONS IN VARIED SECTIONS OF ENGLAND.

1197

THE STORAGE & ISSUE SECTION HAS, THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND MOTOR POOL VEHICLES PLUS THE QUARTERMASTER TRUCK REGIMENT, SENT TRUCKS TO ALL SECTIONS OF ENGLAND TO PICK UP SUPPLIES AND HAVE THEREBY EXPEDITED THE ISSUE OF SUPPLIES TO THE LOWER ECHELONS. THE STORAGE AND ISSUE SECTION IS BECOMING MORE EFFICIENT AND INCREASING THEIR SERVICE IN STEP WITH EACH ADDITIONAL DAY AND WITH EACH ADDITIONAL FACILITY IT CAN COMMAND.

ALL OF THE ABOVE SECTIONS HAVE, AND STILL ARE, OPERATING WITH A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF UNTRAINED PERSONNEL, BUT ARE OVERCOMING THAT HANDICAP BY INTENSIVE TRAINING WHILE ACCOMPLISHING THEIR RESPECTIVE MISSION OF "GET THE MESSAGE THROUGH" WHICH IS A POWERFUL LEG IN "KEEPING 'EM FLYING."

RECEIVED 16th A.D.G. HQ.
TIME 0700
DATE 4 APR 45

1198

SECRET

SECRET
AUTH: CG, 2ND AA
DA, IX AFSEA
INITIALS WW
3 APRIL 1944

1. ORGANIZATION: THIS UNIT ORGANIZED UNDER T/O 11-287, DATED, 26 MARCH 1943.

ORGANIZATIONAL TABLE OF ORGANIZATION ORIGINALLY AUTHORIZED TWO MOBILE RADAR REPAIR TEAMS AND AS OF 4 APRIL 1944 TWO ADDITIONAL TEAMS WERE ASSIGNED TO UNIT.

2. STRENGTH : 31 MARCH 1944

ASSIGNED EM --	255	
OFF -----	9	2 W.O. JG
ATTACHED EM --	31	
OFF -----	1	

3. MOVEMENT : DEPARTED AAF STA 435 6 JAN 1944
ARRIVED AAF STA 466 6 JAN 1944

4. CASUALTIES : NEGATIVE

5. DECORATIONS : NEGATIVE

516-877-H1(CO)
Apr 1944
TO:
Institute
Branch
Alabama

877th Signal company, Depot, Avn
April 1944

SECRET

41-1011-412

SECRET

SECRET
AUTH: MEMO 20-10
INITIALS:
3 MAY 1944

COMPANY HISTORY

877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN)

(1) ORGANIZATION: NEGATIVE

(2) STRENGTH: ASSIGNED E.M. 228
ATTACHED E.M. 79

ASSIGNED OFFICERS 9-0
2-WO

ATTACHED OFFICERS 10-0
2-WO

(3) MOVEMENT: NEGATIVE

(4) CASUALTIES: NEGATIVE

(5) DECORATIONS: NEGATIVE

4-1011-4172

SECRET

THE 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY HAS AT THIS TIME RECEIVED MOST OF ITS' ORGANIZATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND IS OPERATING AT AN ESTIMATED EFFICIENCY VERY NEAR TO ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT. THE WIRE SECTION HAS COMPLETED THE LAYING OF APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY-FIVE MILES OF WIRE CONNECTING OVER ONE-HUNDRED AND FIVE TELEPHONES AND SERVING THE ENTIRE DEPOT CONSISTING OF TWO AIR DEPOT GROUPS.

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL HAS BEEN CARRIED ON IN BOTH TECHNICAL TRAINING AND BASIC FIELD TRAINING. THE FIELD TRAINING UNDER 2ND LT VICTOR ROBINSON HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL. ALL MEN HAVE FIRED THEIR WEAPON AND HAVE A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF ITS USES, NOMENCLATURE AND ACTION. CHEMICAL WARFARE TRAINING HAS ALSO BEEN CARRIED ON WITH ALL MEN RECEIVING INSTRUCTION WITH NEW TYPE LIGHTWEIGHT GASMASK. COURSES IN CAMOUFLAGE, MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS, RECOGNITION OF ENEMY PERSONNEL, RANK AND ARM OF SERVICE AND FIRST AID HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED FOR PERSONNEL OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE STATE OF TRAINING OF THE MEN CAN BE SAID TO BE GOOD.

WITHIN THE PAST MONTH OF APRIL THE RADIO AND RADAR REPAIR SECTIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING NEW AND ADDED TRAINING ON MODIFICATIONS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF RADAR AND RADIO EQUIPMENT AND HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THEIR MISSION WITH A MINIMUM LOSS OF TIME AND A MAXIMUM OF EFFICIENC

ON APRIL TWENTIETH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY FOUR, 2ND LT MARION F. HIENY AND FOURTEEN ENLISTED MEN WERE PLACED ON DETACHED SERVICE WITH A COMBAT DETACHMENT AND LEFT PARENT ORGANIZATION AS SOON AS PREPARATIONS WERE MADE FOR SUPPLY AND MOVEMENT OF GROUP. THESE MEN FORMED A COMMUNICATIONS COMBAT DETACHMENT AND ARE NOW OPERATING ON SECRET ORDERS.

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1944 THE ENTIRE ORGANIZATION HAS GIVEN PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE PREPARATION FOR MOVEMENT OVERSEAS AND HAS BEEN BUILDING AND MARKING ALL BOXES TO CONTAIN ALL ORGANIZATIONAL AND DEPOT EQUIPMENT. ALL EQUIPMENT NOT YET RECEIVED BY ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN FOLLOWED UP AND TRIPS ARE BEING MADE DAILY TO COMPLETE THE TABLES OF EQUIPMENT.

516-177-H(6)
May 1944

877th Signal Company, Depot, Iron
May 1944

SECRET

11-11-43

SECRET

*SECRET
*AUTH:CO 6 TAD
*DATE:31 May 44
*INIT:
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HEADQUARTERS
16TH AIR DEPOT GROUP
877TH SIG CO DEP (AVN)

(1) 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN)

(2) STRENGTH : ASSIGNED E.M. 226
ASSIGNED OFFICERS 11
ASSIGNED W.O. 2
ATTACHED E.M. 12
ATTACHED OFFICERS 1
ATTACHED W.O. 2

(3) MOVEMENT : NEGATIVE

(4) CASUALTIES : NEGATIVE

(5) DECORATIONS: NEGATIVE

4-1011-4173

SECRET

DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 1ST AND ENDING MAY 31ST THIS ORGANIZATION HAS CARRIED ON THE USUAL ROUTINE DUTIES OF A SIGNAL DEPOT COMPANY. THE ORGANIZATION HAS, SINCE BEING ACTIVATED, SERVED TWO AIR DEPOT GROUPS WHICH MAKE UP A TACTICAL AIR DEPOT. UNTIL THE PRESENT TIME THE 877TH SIG CO DEPOT (AVN) HAS OPERATED UNDER THE HANDICAP OF SHORTAGE IN T/E EQUIPMENT. DURING THE PAST THIRTY DAY PERIOD THE ORGANIZATION HAS BECOME MORE EFFICIENT IN EXECUTION OF ITS' MISSION THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW METHODS AND PROCEEDURE AND THE USE OF NEW EQUIPMENT. THE ORGANIZATION NOW HAS APPROXIMATELY NINTY-THREE PERCENT OF T/E AND I.E.L. EQUIPMENT.

THE DEPOT MESSAGE CENTER, OPERATED AND STAFFED BY THE 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY, HANDLES ALL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE 6TH TACTICAL AIR DEPOT. THIS SERVICE ENTAILS THE CLEARING OF ALL MESSAGES, BY TELETYPE, RADIO, TELEPHONE AND COURIER IN ADDITION TO ALL CRYPTOGRAPHIC WORK NECESSARY. TELETYPE COMMUNICATION ON OUTGOING MESSAGES AVERAGED THREE THOUSAND MESSAGES FOR THIS PERIOD. RADIO MESSAGES REACHED AN AVERAGE OF THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MESSAGES FOR SAME PERIOD. TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION FOR ENTIRE DEPOT ON BOTH INCOMING AND OUTGOING AND INTER-POST COMMUNICATION AVERAGED, FOR THE PAST MONTH, ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND CALLS. COURIER SERVICE, FROM THIS STATION, HANDLES APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PIECES PER DAY OVER ROUTES COVERING FIVE HUNDRED MILES DAILY. IN ADDITION TO THE HANDLING AND CLEARANCE OF ALL MESSAGES THE MESSAGE CENTER ALSO HANDLES ALL DISTRIBUTION OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIOS FOR THE DEPOT.

SIGNAL SUPPLY HAS, IN THE PAST MONTH, INCREASED ITS' STOCK TO

1208

A GREAT EXTENT WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, INCREASING ITS SERVICE TO ADDITIONAL SERVICE GROUPS. THIS SECTION HAS, IN THE PAST MONTH, HANDLED APPROXIMATELY THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN THOUSNAD POUNDS OF SUPPLIES OF ALL CLASSES INCLUDING GROUND ELECTRONICS SUPPLIES.

RADIO MAINTENENCE AND REPAIR SECTION HAS REPAIRED, INSTALLED OR MODIFIED APPROXIMATELY THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY RADIO SETS OF VARIOUS TYPES. THEIR WORK WAS NOT CONFINED ENTIRELY TO AIR BORNE RADIO BUT ALSO INCLUDED INSTALLITIONS FOR GROUND UNITS.

RADAR REPAIR SECTION MADE SOME REPAIRS AND MODIFICATIONS ON APPROXIMATELY SIXTY SETS IN THIS SAME PERIOD.

THE 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN) HAS, AS A UNIT, CARRIED ON AN EXTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM, IN EFFECT, IS A REFRESHER IN BASIC SOLDIERING. ALL PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS OF TRAINING IN ADDITION TO THEIR REGULAR DUTIES. THIS TRAINING INCLUDED GUNNERY, RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP, CLOSE AND EXTENDED ORDER DRILL, CAMOUFLAGE, CHEMICAL WARFARE TRAINING, CONVOY PRACTICE AND DICIPLINE AND INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION AND CONCEALMENT. IN ADDITION TO BASIC SOLDIERING TRAINING, UNDERGONE BY ENTIRE COMPANY, THERE WAS ALSO CARRIED ON TRAINING IN TECHNICAL DUTIES. THE RADIO SECTION CONDUCTED A SCHOOL FOR VERY HIGH FREQUENCY------ DIRECTION FINDING RADIO WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY SOLDIERS UNDER THE COMMAND OF 2ND AADA.

THE 877TH SIGNAL CO DEPOT AVN WAS "ALERTED FOR DEPARTURE" ASOF THE 4TH MAY 1944. THIS ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN AND IS IN PREPARATION FOR ANY MOVEMENT ORDERED BY HIGHER HEADQUARTERS. IT IS OPERATIONALLY EFFICIENT AND EQUIPPED TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION UNDER CONDITIONS OF COMBAT.

SECRET

SIG-877-HI(co)
June 1944

877th Signal company, Depot, Avn
June 1944

SECRET

41-1011-424

SECRET

*SECRET
*AUTH:MEMO 20-10
* IX AFSC
*DATE:30 June 44
*INIT:
****

HEADQUARTERS
16TH AIR DEPOT GROUP
877TH SIG CO DEP AVN

30 JUNE 1944

(1) 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN)

(2) STRENGTH

ASSIGNED E.M.	223
ASSIGNED OFFICERS	11
ASSIGNED W.O.	2
ATTACHED E.M.	10
ATTACHED OFFICERS	3
ATTACHED W.O.	2

(3) MOVEMENT NEGATIVE

(4) CASUALTIES NEGATIVE

(5) DECORATIONS NEGATIVE

4-1011-474

SECRET

1212

THE 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT AVIATION HAS, IN THE PAST THIRTY DAYS, PASSED THE SIX MONTH PERIOD FROM ACTIVATION TO THE PRESENT TIME. DURING THIS PAST MONTH WE HAVE HAD MANY CHANGES TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION.

THE SIGNAL DEPOT COMMANDER, FROM DATE OF ACTIVATION, CAPTAIN JOSEPH A. PLIHAL RECEIVED HIS MAJORITY AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY COMMANDER, 1ST LT WILLIAM T. WILLS BECAME CAPTAIN.

THE ORGANIZATIONS' TWO GROUND RADAR SERVICE TEAMS RECEIVED ORDERS FOR "FAR SHORE"MOVEMENT AND DEPARTED FROM HOME STATION. THESE TWO TEAMS WERE OFFICERED BY 1ST LT THOMAS TUCCINARDI AND 2ND LT H.L. BEARD.

DURING THIS PERIOD THIS ORGANIZATION ALSO BEGAN SHIPMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND ISSUE EQUIPMENT FOR EVENTUAL SHIPMENT TO THE "FAR SHORE." THIS EQUIPMENT.TOTALLED FORTY-TWO TONS AND INCLUDED TWO AND ONE QUARTER TONS OF T/E EQUIPMENT.

WHILE NOT ACTUALLY LOSING MEN OR EQUIPMENT, FROM ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS, THERE IS A DECIDED FEELING OF LOSS IN COMRADSHIP DUE TO THE MOVEMENT OF THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED.

THERE HAS BEEN A DECIDED ACCELERATION OF ACTIVITY DUE TO THE NECESSITY FOR MARKING AND PACKING MATERIALS IN PREPARATION FOR MOVEMENT. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN THIS INCREASED ACTIVITY IT HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO AFFECT THE OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION.

POSSIBLY THE MOST SIGN OF CONTINUED OPERATION CAN BE PUT FORWARD BY THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE STORAGE AND ISSUE SECTION. THIS DEPARTMENT HAS, IN THE PAST THIRTY DAYS, HANDLED A TOTAL OF OVER 202,450 LB OF INCOMING FREIGHT AND 207,040 LB OF OUTGOING FREIGHT. IN ADDITION TO THIS IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY FOR ALL EQUIPMENT, IN

1213

STORAGE, TO BE READIED FOR SHIPMENT. THIS NECESSITATES THE MARKING OF AND RECORDING OF ALL BOXES FOR OVERSEAS SHIPMENT.

THE GENERAL REPAIR AND "VERY HIGH FREQUENCY" WIRE SECTION HAVE COMPLETED A TASK WHICH IS NOTEWORTHY FOR ANY ORGANIZATION TO ACCOMPLISH. UPON THE RECEIPT OF FOUR V.H.F. SIGNAL CORPS TRUCKS, TOTALLY DEVOID OF EQUIPMENT, AND THE ACCOMPANYING ORDER TO REBUILD THESE SAME TRUCKS THESE TOW SECTIONS FORMED PLANS FOR THE JOINT TASK OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS MISSION. AFTER A THOROUGH RECONNISAINCE AND ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED THE WORK WAS BEGUN. WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS, FOUR V.H.F. SHELLS HAD BEEN COMPLETELY EQUIPPED AND TESTED FOR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND WERE FOUND TO BE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. THE STORY OF HOW AND WHERE THE EQUIPMENT WAS PROCURED IS TOO LONG TO ENTER INTO THIS ACCOUNT. THE INGENUITY EVIDENCED IS THAT BRAND WHICH LIES, SOMETIMES DORMANT, IN EVERYONE OF OUR FIGHTING MEN. A JOB HAD TO BE DONE AND WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONING IT WAS "SET ABOUT" AND ACCOMPLISHED. IT TOOK MORE THAN CABLE, WIRE, NUTS, SCREWS AND BOLTS TO DO THIS. IT TOOK A SPIRIT WHICH NO CHALLENGE COULD "LICK."

IT WAS THIS SAME SPIRIT AND ITS' BEING EVIDENCE ON ALL SIDES THAT CAUSED THE OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION TO PLAN A HOLIDAY FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND THE MEN WHO MAKE IT UP. WITH THE JOINT PURPOSE OF CELEBRATION OF OUR SIX MONTH OF OPERATION AND TO MORE SUITABLY CELEBRATE THE ELEVATION IN GRADE OF TWO OF OUR OFFICERS A PARTY WAS PLANNED WHEREBY A GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PERSON EL WOULD BE AFFORDED A DAY FOR RELAXATION AND ENTERTAINMENT. THE PARTY WAS PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, 25 JUNE 1944. ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER WAS NOT PARTICULARALLY GOOD IT WAS AGREED THAT ALL WHO ATTEND-

1214

ED ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET AWAY, IN A GROUP, FROM THE ROUTINE OF EVERYDAY DUTIES AND RESTRICTIONS.

TO BE RETURNED
TO THE ARCHIVES
OF THE AAF
HISTORICAL OFFICE

FILE NO. 519-877-HI(Ps)
Feb 1945

877th Signal Company, Depts Com
Feb 1945

MICROFILMED

S-E-C-R-E-T

COMPANY HISTORY

877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN)

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* SECRET,
* AUTH:MEMO 20-10
* HQ, 9TH AAF
* DATE: 5 DEC 1943
* INIT: JCT
****
SIG-877-HI
Feb 45

(1) DESIGNATION — 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN)

(2) STRENGTH:

ASSIGNED E.M.	169
ASSIGNED OFFICERS	9
ASSIGNED W.O.	1
ATTACHED E.M.	4

(3) MOVEMENT: NONE

(4) CASUALTIES: THIRTEEN

(5) DECORATIONS: NONE

DURING THE PERIOD EXTENDING FROM FEBRUARY FIRST TO FEBRUARY TWENTY EIGHTH THIS ORGANIZATION LOST A TOTAL OF THIRTEEN MEN. TWO OF THESE MEN WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENT EIGHTH GENERAL HOSPITAL. THE REMAINING ELEVEN MEN WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE TWENTIETH REPLACEMENT POOL TO BE TRAINED AS COMBAT INFANTRY MEN. THE FOLLOWING MEN WERE TRANSFERRED BY AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL ORDER 31, PARAGRAPH 1, HEADQUARTERS 16TH AIR DEPOT GROUP.

NAME	RANK	ASN
MUSE,JAMES H.	SGT	14037066
PERILLO,GAETANO A.	SGT	31083298
HAGGBERG, ROBERT C.	SGT	17063100
KURMAN,NORMAN I.	T/5	31083630
BAUMAN,SIDNEY	P.F.C.	32790501
ICE,JACK A.	PVT	35356300
TUCKER,CHARLES	PVT	33415708
SELLARS,ROBERT W.	PVT	37470466
RIGLER,LEO T.	PVT	13031681
FOWLER,GEORGE L.	PVT	39187971
MOWAT,WILLIAM O.	P.F.C.	39331688

. THE WIRE MAINTENANCE TEAM HAS DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY COMPLETED THE INSTALLATION OF CABLE, TO REPLACE ALL FIELD WIRE, COMING INTO THE FRAME ROOM FROM OUTSIDE TERMINAL BOXES. THIS NEW INSTALLATION IMPROVES THE APPEARANCE AND INCREASES THE EFFICIENCY IN HANDLING OF INSIDE TROUBLE. THEY HAVE ALSO, DURING THIS MONTH, MADE TEN NEW TELEPHONE INSTALLATIONS ALONG WITH THE LAYING OF EIGHT MILES OF SPIRAL FOUR CABLE AND TWENTY MILES OF FIELD WIRE. THE SECTION HAS TAKEN OVER ONE NEW LINE CONNECTING "SPITFIRE" REAR, ONE NEW LINE (VOICE) TO "GLIDER" AND TWO TELETYPE LINES THROUGH "GLIDER" SWITCH. M/SGT VAN MESSIMORE,WIRE CHIEF FOR THE PAST THIRTEEN MONTHS WITH THIS ORGANIZATION, APPLIED FOR AND WAS ACCEPTED FOR INFANTRY OFFICERS CANDIDATE SCHOOL. THE LOSS OF M/SGT MESSIMORE WILL CAUSE A GAP WHICH WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FILL. M/SGT MESSIMORE HAS EXEMPLIFIED ALL OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD SOLDIER AND TECHNICIAN AND HAS ALWAYS FER-

FORMED HIS DUTY IN A SURPERIOR MANNER.

THE WIRE SECTION HAS,WITH LIMITED PERSONNEL,ACCOMPLISHED A FINE RECORD IN SERVICE AND MAINTENENCE. DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY THEY "SHOT" OVER EIGHTY FIVE CASES OF TROUBLE AND HAVE IMPROVED THE CONDITION OF ALL EXISTING LINES AND CIRCUITS.

THE SIGNAL SUPPLY SECTION HAS , DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, HANDLED ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY NINE TONS OF SHIPPING RECEIVED AND SHIPPED A TOTAL OF TWO HUNDRED AND TWELVE TONS OF ALL TYPES OF SIGNAL EQUIPMENT. THE ACQUIRING OF A FORK LIFT HAS EASED THE TASK OF THE WAREHOUSEMEN TO A GREAT EXTENT. FORMERLY ALL MOVING OF MATERIALS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY HAND.

THE GENERAL REPAIR SECTION, WHICH HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY OVERWORKED AND UNDER STAFFED FOR THE PAST YEAR, HAS FINALLY REACHED A POINT OF EFFECIENCY WHEREBY THEY ARE ABLE TO IMMEDIATELY EXCHANGE ANY TYPE USED POWERE UNIT WHICH IS IN USE BY THE SIGNAL COMPANIES OF THE AIR FORCE. THIS FACT,UNIMPRESSIVE AS IT MAY SOUND, IS QUITE A FEAT IN THAT POSWER UNIT REPAIR HAS BEEN THE GREATEST PROBLEM OF ALL SIGNAL DEPOT COMPANIES ON THE CONTINENT. DURING THIS PERIOD THIS SECTION ALSO UNDERTOOK AND SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED THE REPAIR OF A LARGE, FIFTY K.W. GENERATOR. THIS GENERATOR IS THE M-18 USED WITH THE SCR-584 GUN LAYING RADAR EQUIPMENT NOW BEING USED AS AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM BY "BOMBAY", NINTH BOMBARDMENT COMMAND.

THE 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN) HAS, DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY,BEEN ASSIGNED THE TECHNICAL COMMAND OF THE FIVE SIXTY FOURTH RADAR BATTALION. IT WILL BE OUR DUTY TO EXERCISE TECHNICAL CONTROL OVER AND FOR THE GROUND RADAR REPAIR TEAMS SERVICING THIS BATTALION AND TO SUPPLY COMMON,PECULIAR, AMERICAN AND BRITISH RADAR CONVOYS AND SPARE PARTS TO THE USING UNITS. THIS ASSIGNMENT GIVES THE DEPOT ANDDED RESPONSIBILITY AND NECESSITATES SOMPLETE COORDINATION.

1220

MUST BE RETURNED
TO THE ARCHIVES
BY THE AAF
HISTORICAL OFFICE

FILE NO. 519-877-HI (Pa)
MAR-1945

877th Signal Company, Depot, Com
Mar 1945

MICROFILMED

SIG-877-14

SECRET
AUTH: CO, 16th ADG
DATE: 1 April 1945
INIT: [signature]
MARCH 1945

SECRET

OFFICIAL

MILITARY HISTORY

of the

877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT AVIATION - 16TH AIR DEPOT GROUP

IX Air Force Service Command - Ninth Air Force

UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES

JAMES E. GLEASON,
1st Lt., Sig Corps,
Historical Officer.

INSTALLMENT

From - 1 March 1945
To - 31 March 1945

SECRET

S-E-C-R-E-T
COMPANY HISTORY
HEADQUARTERS
16TH AIR DEPOT GROUP
877TH SIG CO DEP (AVN)

SECRET:
AUTH: CO,16TH, ADG
DATE: 17 APR 1945
INIT:

(1) UNIT DESIGNATION — 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT (AVN)

(2) STRENGTH

ASSIGNED OFFICERS	9
ASSIGNED W O	1
ASSIGNED E.M.	174

(3) MOVEMENT

Organization received movement orders twenty-fifth March 1945 and on the twenty-sixth of March an advance party consisting of two officers and thirty-eight men departed from home station, via GMT, for Y-56 and on the same day another group of twenty men departed, via military acrft, for Y-56 located at Munchen Gladback, Germany.

(4) CASUALTIES — TWO

Due to physical disability, two men returned to the Zone of the Interior.

(5) DECORATIONS — NONE

During the month of March this organization sent a total of seven men to attend Infantry Officers Candidate School. The men are listed as follows:

DATE	NAME	GRADE	ASN
3 March 1945	Van H. Messimore	M/Sgt	6298283
	Leslie D. Gillis	M/Sgt	6299571
	Bernard G. Levine	S/Sgt	11057435
5 March 1945	Raymond M. Hederman	S/Sgt	32398913
12 March 1945	Robert L. Latham	PFC	15318708
23 March 1945	Charles H. Ten Eyck	Cpl	12201527
	Edward G. Ten Eyck	Cpl	12201457

During this same priod seven men, of this organization, were transferred to a reinforcement depot for Infantry Conversion Treining.

8 March 1945	Samuel S.Scott	T/5	34120158
	Godfrey F. Blombach	PFC	31266947
	Eric I. Harris	Pvt	10601537
	Eugene W. Schulkind	T/5	13150693
	James J. Mc Kee	T/5	32759321
	John W. Scannell	PFC	32676701
	Wayne J. Doll	Pvt	16061893

Due to physical disability two men were returned to the Zone of the Interior for further treatment and/or possible seperation from the service.

9 March 1945	Theodore R. Nemac	T/Sgt	32786352
	Eugene Jerkins	T/4	34602619

Technical Sergeant Nemac, Chief of the V.H.F. Wire Repair and Maintenence SECTION, had been a member of this organization for about fourteen months during which time he executed his duties with a high degree of efficiency and exemplified all of the qualities of leadership.

Due to a large turnover in personnel of this organisation and the fact that reinforcements, for the most part, are Infantry Combat Men with very little technical training it has been an increasingly difficult problem. It has been necessary, in most instances, to put the new personnel on an "on the job training" program. At the present threre are a total of nine men receiving training in Supply proceedure, one in instrument repair, one in automotive repair, one in generator repair and in cooking. Three men, newly arrived from the United States 10 march 1945, are working and receiving instruction in Personnel Records and Payroll.

On 20 March 1945 the 877th Signal Company Depot (AVN) received warning of movement to a new location and immediately began to ship all excess equipment. The British Radar section shipped a total of nine hundred and sixteen items of stock to the 925th Signal Company Depot along with some items of V.H.F. Radio and Wire equipment.

During the month of March the Storage and Issue section handled a tota of one hundred and ninty tons of all types of signal equipment. This equipment was exclusively that destined for use in the field. In addition to the handling of this amount practicelly all of the stock of supplies on hand were packed and made ready for shipment to the new location. On March twentieth this packing began and by the twenty-sixth practically all equipment was ready for shipment. On 26 March the advance party left for the new location, Munchen Gladbach, Germany with the necessary equipment to start operations. Telephone and Radio communications were immediately set up and Teletype communication along with Motor Vehicle Courier service was rapidly being organized for operation.

During the month of March, four men of the organization received furloughs to England and five men left the organization, on temporary duty, to attend an Airborne Radar School in England.

On the 13 March 1945 1st Lt James E. Gleason left, on TD to attend the University of Paris for a seven day course in "Instructor Training". This course is designed to teach, a group of qualified men, the correct proceedures and methods of teaching so that they may pass on this information to others who will be the nucleus of the instructor staff for "V-E" training and educational program.

James E. Gleason

James E. Gleason
1st Lt Sig Corps
Historical Officer

RETURNED
TO THE ARCHIVES
OF THE AAF
HISTORICAL OFFICE

ITEM NO. S16-877-HI (1)
MAY 1945

877th Signal Company Depot, Conn
May 1945

7366-425
MICROFILMED

SECRET
AUTH: C.O. 16TH ADG
DATE: 4 JUNE 1945
INIT:

SIG-877-HI
MAY 1945

OFFICIAL
MILITARY HISTORY
OF THE
877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT AVN
16TH AIR DEPOT GROUP
IX AIR FORCE SERVICE COMMAND-NINTH AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES

HISTORICAL OFFICER

James E. Gleason

JAMES E. GLEASON
1ST LT, SIG CORPS

INSTALLMENT

FROM- 1 MAY 1945

TO 31 MAY 1945

1316-475-1

S-E-C-R-E-T

877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT AVN

16TH AIR DEPOT GROUP

A PO 149,U.S. ARMY

4 JUNE 1945

HISTORICAL RECORD

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1945

ORGANIZATION — NEGATIVE

STRENGTH — 31 MAY 1945

OFFICERS	9
WARRANT OFFICERS	1
ENLISTED MEN	175

MOVEMENT — NONE

CASUALTIES — FIVE MEN LOST OF RESULT OF TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL.

DECORATIONS — NEGATIVE

JAMES E. GLEASON
1ST LT SIG CORPS
HISTORICAL OFFICER

RESUME OF COMPANY HISTORY
FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 1945

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY THIS ORGANIZATION SUFFERED THE LOSS OF THIRTY MEN. OF THIS NUMBER FIVE MEN WERE RETURNED TO THE ZONE OF THE INTERIOR. THESE MEN WERE RETURNED FOR TWO REASONS. TOTAL POINT SCORE AND AGE DETERMINED THEIR RETURN TO THE CONTINENTAL LIMITS OF THE UNITES STATES.

P.F.C. COHEN, CORPORAL COSHAK AND P.F.C. SHANNON STEWART WERE RETURNED TO THE ZONE OF THE INTERIOR BECAUSE OF AGE AND PVT PERREAULT AND KAUCHER WERE RETURNED FOR TOTAL POINT SCORE. ONE OTHER MAN OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS RETURNED TO THE ZONE OF THE INTERIOR DURING THIS PERIOD ALTHOUGH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY LEFT THE ORGANIZATION AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE HOSPITAL. TECHNICAL SERGEANT HOMER WILSON WAS RETURNED TO THE ZONE OF THE INTERIOR DUE TO PHYSICAL DISABILITY. SERGEANT WILSON WAS THE OLDEST SOLDIER,IN THE UNIT, FROM POINT OF SERVICE. HE WOULD HAVE COMPLETED HIS TWENTIETH YEAR OF SERVICE DURING THE MONTH OF JULY OF THIS YEAR.

AS REPLACEMENTS FOR THESE MEN LOST THROUGH TRANSFER TO THE ZONE OF THE INTERIOR AND OTHER SIGNAL UNITS THIS ORGANIZATION RECEIVED A TOTAL OF TWENTY-FOUR MEN DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. THIS CAUSED A LOSS,IN TOTAL STRENGTH,OF SIX MEN FOR THIS PERIOD.

THE BATTLE PARTICIPATION STAR FOR GERMANY WAS AUTHORIZED, FOR THE 877TH SIGNAL COMPANY DEPOT AVIATION, BY LTR, HQ ETOUSA, AG 200.6 OPGA,. DATED 26TH APRIL 1945.

THIS ORGANIZATION RECEIVED REDEPLOYMENT ALERT ORDER NO 1, DATED 26TH MAY 1945, HQ 9TH AFSC, NINTH AIR FORCE.

1232

DURING THIS PERIOD THE SIGNAL SUPPLY SECTION HAS HANDLED A TOTAL OF FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY NINE TONS OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING ITEMS OF COMMON AND CRITICAL CLASSES. SINCE THE COMPANY HAS RECEIVED ORDERS OF REDEPLOYMENT AND AUTHORIZATION TO SHIP SUPPLY STOCK THIS SECTION HAS BEEN BUSY PACKING AND SHIPPING,BY TRUCK AND RAIL, TO VARIOUS DEPOTS IN GERMANY,BELGIUM AND FRANCE.

THE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION HAS, DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, MADE A TOTAL OF FOURTEEN NEW INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIRED ELEVEN TRUNK TROUBLES AND THIRTY-FIVE LOCAL TROUBLES BESIDE LAYING SIX ADDITIONAL MILES OF CABLE AND EIGHT MILES OF FIELD WIRE.DURING THE MONTH OF MAY ONE "PBX" SWITCHBOARD WAS REMOVED AND ALL LINES SWITCHED OVER TO AN ADDITIONAL CENTRAL OFFICE SET, TC-2 USING THE SWITCHBOARD BD-89 IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANOTHER TC-2.

THE RADIO OPERATIONS SECTION HANDLED, DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, A TOTAL OF TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND GROUPS. THE TELEPHONE SECTION HANDLED AN AVERAGE OF THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY CALLS A DAY OF WHICH TEN PERCENT WERE LONG DISTANCE. TELETYPE MESSAGES TOTALLED APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN HUNDRED FOR THE MONTH WHILE THE COURIER SYSTEM HANDLED ABOUT TWO HUNDRED PIECES OF MAIL A DAY FOR THE MONTH.

THE BRITISH RADAR SUPPLY SECTION AND THE V.H.F RADIO SUPPLY SECTION COMPLETED THE MOVEMENT OF IT'S ENTIRE STOCK TO THE 925TH SIGNAL DEPOT COMPANY AT CHALONS, FRANCE. THIS ENTAILED THE CLASSIFICATION,TABULATING AND PACKING OF PRACTICALLY AN ENTIRE NEW STOCK WHICH HAD BEEN RECENTLY RECEIVED AS A NEW STOCK LEVEL.

THE MONTH OF MAY SAW AN APPRECIABLE SLACKENING OFOPERATIONS OFR THIS ORGANIZATION. THE RESULT WAS THAT THE ORGANIZATION FOUND ITSELF WITH BARELY ENOUGH WORK TO KEEP ALL MEN BUSY FOR AN ENTIRE DAY. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ITS' ACTIVATION THIS COMPANY AUTHORIZED A FULL DAY OFF EACH WEEK FOR ALL MEN OF THE ORGANIZATION. SPORTS AND OTHER INTERESTS TOOK THE TIME OF A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE MEN BUT IT WAS THE WISH OF THE SIGNAL DEPOT COMMANDER THAT AS MANY MEN AS POSSIBLE BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING MORE OF THE COUNTRY THAN THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD OPPORTUNITY OF DOING. CONSEQUENTLY, FOR TWO SUCCESSIVE SUNDAYS, UNTIL ALERT ORDERS WERE RECEIVED ABOUT THIRTY MEN WERE TAKEN ON A SIGHT SEEING TOUR OF THE AREA BETWEEN MUNCHEN-GLADBACH, DUSSEL-DORF AND COLOGNE. THIS AFFORDED THE MEN TO GET SOME IDEA OF WHAT ANOTHER SECTION OF GERMANY WAS LIKE OTHER THAN THEIR OWN IMMEDIATE AREA AND ALLOWED THEM TO VISIT THE CATHEDRAL OF COLOGNE. THESE TRIPS WERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENTERED INTO AND IT IS HOPED THAT THEY MAY BE CONTINUED BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM GERMANY.

THE MORALE OF THE ORGANIZATION, CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS BY COMPANY OFFICERS, IS VERY HIGH. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS DUE TO THE SIGHTSEEING TRIPS, RECREATION, SPORTS AND THE AVAILIBILITY OF THE USUAL POST THEATRE AND RED CROSS CLUB IN ADDITION TO AN EN-LISTED MENS' BEER HALL.