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WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER

WASHINGTON

October 10, 1939.

SIGNAL CORPS INFORMATION LETTER  
NO. 23

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I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Signal Corps Information Letter (SCIL) is issued quarterly. Its primary purpose is to keep all Signal Corps officers in touch with current activities and policies of general interest.
2. The SCIL will be compiled mainly from information regularly available in this office. However, all Signal Corps officers and agencies are invited to submit special items of general interest. Such items should reach the Chief Signal Officer not later than the 1st day of each quarter for inclusion in the quarterly issue.
3. The SCIL is not a directive and will not replace the instructions and information on specific activities normally issued to Signal Corps agencies directly concerned in such activities. It will, however, summarize instructions and information on important matters for the general information of Signal Corps personnel.
4. Requisitions for new types of equipment will not be submitted on the basis of information contained in the SCIL.
5. The SCIL will be distributed to all Signal Corps officers (Regular Army), Chiefs of Arms and Services, Service Schools, Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, Assistants Chief of Staff, Commanding Generals of Corps Areas and Departments, Secretary, Coast Artillery Board, Ft. Monroe, warrant officers assigned to Signal Corps.
6. Restricted. - A document will be classified and marked "Restricted" when the information it contains is for official use only or of such nature that its disclosure should be limited for reasons of administrative privacy or should be denied the general public. The "Restricted" mark will be placed on a document only by authority of a commissioned officer.  
(A.R. 380-5).

## II

### FISCAL

7. All the regular estimates, namely, Signal Service of the Army; Salaries, Office, Chief Signal Officer; Alaska Communication System; Printing and Binding; Transportation; Civilian Conservation Corps; and the various Seacoast Defense estimates for the F.Y. 1941 have been approved by the War Department. They were forwarded to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget about September 15, 1939. It is expected that the Bureau of the Budget will hold hearings on these estimates late in October or during the first week of November.

8. Funds appropriated for the F.Y. 1940 have been and are being allotted generally in conformity with the expenditure program as set up. Unusual conditions existing for the past several weeks have necessitated some adjustments.

9. Corps area signal officers have, in a number of instances, reported to this office that telephone funds normally allotted them are insufficient to meet the requirements of many of the manufacturing and procurement activities at Army industrial establishments. These activities are now permitted to supplement, from their own appropriations, the funds provided by the Signal Corps for this increased service.

10. In order to clear up an apparent misunderstanding regarding the limiting of the obligation of funds by months, activities are reminded that appropriations have been for the past several years apportioned to the Chief Signal Officer by months. It is appreciated that this arrangement imposes a considerable inconvenience upon the various activities by unduly restricting obligations, particularly during the early part of the fiscal year. However, this action is made necessary by the fact that monthly apportionments of War Department appropriations are prescribed by the Bureau of the Budget.

### III

#### COMMUNICATION LIAISON DIVISION

11. The radio communication needs of the new Puerto Rican Department and the several new air fields have made necessary a large number of readjustments in radio frequency assignments.

The necessity for avoiding interference with commercial, other Government and existing Army radio operations makes each change in the application or locale of use of a frequency a matter for detailed study. More than 450 station-frequency assignments were processed through the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee during September.

12. Active participation has been taken in the work of the committee preparing United States studies for the forthcoming meeting of the International Technical Consulting Committee on Radio Communications, which work is practically complete; and in the work of a committee under the supervision of the State Department for preparing rules governing control of foreign radio in territorial waters and airdromes of the United States. These rules will appear shortly as Rules of the Federal Communications Commission.

IV

MILITARY PERSONNEL

13. 1st Lieut. William J. Given, Sig. C., Philippine Department, will be assigned to Fort Monmouth effective upon completion of his present tour of foreign service and 1st Lieut. Robert F. Frost, Sig. C., Fort Monmouth, will replace him in the Philippines.

1st Lieut. Wilfred H. Tetley, Cavalry, has been detailed in the Signal Corps and assigned to duty in the Hawaiian Department.

1st Lieut. Carl L. Lindquist, Cavalry, has been detailed in the Signal Corps and assigned to duty as student, The Signal Corps School, Fort Monmouth.

14. Promotion: The following promotions have been announced.

To Colonel

Spencer B. Akin

To Lieut. Colonel

Archie A. Farmer

To Major

Rex W. Minckler

Charles M. Simpson, Jr.

Albert M. Pigg

Everett R. Wells

15. New Organizations in the Signal Corps: Steps have been taken to organize the 5th Signal Company, 6th Corps Area, at Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

The 62nd Signal Battalion (now inactive in the 7th Corps Area) will be activated at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The 3d Radio Intelligence Company (now inactive in the 2nd Corps Area) will be activated at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

## CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

16. Due to the expanded activities of the Army and the additional responsibilities of the Signal Corps in connection with the preservation of neutrality and with the national defense, a considerable number of civilian employees has been appointed in various Signal Corps field activities and in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer.

17. Steps are being taken to provide the necessary personnel for the office of the Signal Officer, Puerto Rican Department, which was established July 1, 1939.

18. Change of station of the following technical personnel in the Signal Service at Large has been effected due to the requirements of the service:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Previous Station</u>	<u>New Station</u>
John F. Myers	Asst. Tel. Engr.	Chicago Depot	Philippine Dept.
Charles F. Robinson	Asst. Elec. Engr.	Philippine Dept.	4th C.A.
Arthur R. Beach	Asst. Radio Engr.	Hawaiian Dept.	8th C.A.
Edwin A. Goodwin	Assoc. Radio Engr.	Ft. Monmouth	Seattle, Wash.
Oliver D. Perkins	Asst. Radio Engr.	8th C.A.	Hawaiian Dept.
Carl P. Lindquist	Assoc. Elec. Engr.	5th C.A.	8th C.A.
Paul D. Kaly	Asst. Tel. Engr.	3rd C.A.	Puerto Rico
J. Ernest Hartz	Asst. Tel. Engr.	8th C.A.	Washington, D.C.
Lawrence L. Hill	Asst. Elec. Engr.	4th C.A.	5th C.A.
Harris Gallay	Asst. Radio Engr.	Wright Field	Sacramento, Cal.
Wilbur D. Hicks	Jr. Accountant	Panama	N. Y. Depot
Albert S. Bullens	Cable Engineer	USA MP "Niles"	9th C.A.
Michael Guzy	Cable Foreman	USA MP "Niles"	9th C.A.

19. On September 27, 1939, the Secretary of War announced the appointment of Mr. Arthur Heath Onthank as Director of Personnel for the War Department.

## DEVELOPMENT OF EQUIPMENT

## NON RADIO:

20. Three different types of commercial printers and one type of printer designed by the Signal Corps Laboratories are undergoing service test under the supervision of the Signal Corps Board. The commercial types are Models 15 and 26 Teletype Corporation and Western Union 102, modified for field operation. The laboratories' type is a small page printer designed especially for field use. The necessary auxiliary equipment, such as gas engines, rectifiers and accessories, has been provided so as to enable operation independently of commercial power.

It is hoped that the information gained in this service test will result in the early standardization of one or more of these printers.

## AIRCRAFT RADIO:

21. Tests of a sample of Radio Receiver BC-224-B, a number of which are now being procured, have shown that these new receivers will be a decided improvement, electrically and mechanically, over Radio Receiver BC-224-A. Substitution of automatic temperature compensation for the use of heaters has eliminated the warm-up period, decreased power consumption and resulted in better frequency stability. Accessibility for maintenance has been increased to the extent that it is estimated that all major components and sub-assemblies could be removed and replaced within four hours.

22. A service test of the 360° automatic-bearing Radio Compass has been completed and recommendations for standardization made. Specifications are available for procurement of these compasses in both the 12-volt (SCR-279) and 24-volt (SCR-269) models.

23. Test Set I-76 has been developed for use in tuning Marker Beacon Receiver BC-341. The crystal-controlled Test Oscillator BC-376 provided is more accurate and stable than Test Oscillator BC-317 and includes a headphone jack for setting Marker Beacon Transmitter BC-302 to zero beat, thus making the use of Frequency Meter BC-313 unnecessary.

24. A service test has been made of radio equipment (SCR-253, SCR-254) for communication between control towers and instrument landing trucks and the equipment recommended for standardization. It consists of crystal-controlled transmitters and receivers operating on approximately 38 megacycles. An extra loud speaker mounted on top of the truck can be rotated 360° to allow the truck operator to receive calls from the control tower while engaged in reeling out ground radial wires at some distance from the truck.

25. Specifications for Interphone Equipment RC-41 have been completed. This equipment consists of an improved interphone amplifier, high power audio amplifier, dynamotor unit, loudspeakers and control boxes for use in heavy bombardment airplanes.

26. Throat Microphone T-30, developed as a replacement for hand microphone T-17, has been service tested by the Air Corps and a recommendation made that a number be procured for extended service test.

27. Six service test models of Frequency Selector RC-28, a push button unit for tuning radio compasses automatically during instrument landings, have been completed by the Aircraft Radio Laboratory and a request has been made for appointment of a service test board.



## VII

### TRAINING

28. The following Technical Regulations were received and distributed:

- TR 1230-2 - Telegraph Set TG-5-A
- TR 1210-52 - Radio Sets SCR-194 and SCR-195
- TR 1215-4 - Frequency Meter Set SCR-211-A

29. Field Manuals as follows have been received:

- FM 6-120 - Field Artillery Field Manual, The Observation Battalion
- FM 21-35 - Basic Field Manual - Field Service Pocket-book, Sketching
- FM 22-5 - Basic Field Manual - Infantry Drill Regulations
- FM 25-5 - Basic Field Manual - Animal Transport
- FM 28-5 - Basic Field Manual - The Band

30. Circulars 3 and 4 were issued as of July 1, 1939 and candidates for promotion to the first three grades notified of the results of their examinations.

31. Under the expansion program authorized by the President, the Signal Corps will be allotted one signal company for each new division organized. In addition, one signal battalion and one radio intelligence company, Regular Army, inactive, will be activated. All Signal Corps units now active and those to be activated will be organized at full peace strength. The new division signal company will have an authorized peace strength of 175 enlisted men in place of the present peace strength of 152. The change in the divisional organization will entail additional responsibilities on the part of the division signal company, since it will now have to serve five headquarters rather than three under the old organization, that is, it will have to provide communication to three infantry regiments and two field artillery regiments. Changes in equipment for the signal company will be necessary to some extent. For example, additional wire will be required. Changes in signal equipment for regimental headquarters companies will also be necessary, particularly in the case of radio. It is probable that SCR-131 Radio Sets formerly used for communication between regimental headquarters and brigade headquarters will be replaced by SCR-171 Radio Sets in order to permit radio communication over greater distances than have been heretofore contemplated.

## VIII

### SUPPLY

32. Equipment for Byrd Antarctic Expedition: A number of items of field radio equipment were issued for use of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition sailing from Boston about October 1, 1939.

33. Item Procurement Plans: Fourteen Abstract Item Procurement Plans have been completed and submitted to the Office of The Assistant Secretary of War during the past quarter, as follows:

Control Box BC-321	Radio Set SCR-245-( )
Dynamotor Unit PE-55	Radio Transmitter BC-191-A
Dynamotor Unit BD-77-A	Radio Transmitter BC-223
Headset P-19	Transmitter Tuning Unit TU-5-A
Microphone T-17	Transmitter Tuning Unit TU-6-A
Radio Control Box BC-309	Transmitter Tuning Unit TU-17
Radio Receiver BC-312-A	Transmitter Tuning Unit TU-18

34. Purchase of Equipment: Approximately \$5,465,000 worth of signal communication equipment has been contracted for since July 1, 1939. The pressure of work caused by this unusual load has necessitated a material expansion of procurement and inspection personnel. The largest single contract placed this fiscal year was with the General Electric Company in the amount of \$2,261,208 for radio transmitting equipment. This is probably the largest Signal Corps contract placed since the World War.

35. Signal Corps General Catalog: Printed revisions of Class 2000 and Appendix C of the Signal Corps General Catalog were distributed to the field.

36. War Planning Equipment Charts: The computation of all Signal Corps War Planning Equipment Charts has been completed. The charts are now being reproduced and when available will be distributed to corps areas in accordance with paragraph 21, AR 310-60.

37. Supply Letters: The following supply letters were issued during the quarter:

Supply Letter No. 104, dated July 22, 1939, advising that Battery BA-17 has been classified as limited standard. Battery BA-23 should be used in lieu thereof.

Supply Letter No. 105, dated July 22, 1939, outlines action to be taken by signal officers when unsatisfactory reports on Air Corps Form No. 54 are routed through them.

Supply Letter No. 106, dated July 22, 1939, relates to the unauthorized assigning of stock numbers to items of equipment by field personnel.

Supply Letter No. 107, dated September 22, 1939, relates to overloading Dynamotor Units BD-AG-83.

The following information was furnished by the Bureau of Aeronautics on July 22, 1939, in response to a request for information regarding the unauthorized assigning of stock numbers to items of equipment by field personnel. It is noted that the Bureau of Aeronautics is the only organization in the Department of the Army which is authorized to assign stock numbers to items of equipment. It is further noted that the Bureau of Aeronautics is the only organization in the Department of the Army which is authorized to assign stock numbers to items of equipment.

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IX

FIXED SIGNAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

38. Radio Construction, Operation and Maintenance: A radio station is being established at San Juan for use as Puerto Rican Department headquarters station to communicate with WAR in Washington. The station will be installed temporarily, utilizing a BC-319-A radio transmitter, and later will be installed on a permanent basis with a 1 kw radio transmitter BC-339. The call sign WVN will be used at this station. A local departmental net is also being established, utilizing SCR-136 radio sets in temporary installations at Cayey, Point Borinquen and San Juan. Permanent installations will be made at a later date, using 300 watt medium frequency radio transmitters BC-365.

The 800 watt radio range installation at Fort Davis, in the Canal Zone, has been completed and placed in operation.

Captain Howard S. Paddock arrived on Sept. 5th to take charge of the Radio Section, Plant and Traffic Division.

39. Wire Systems: Various major telephone construction projects occasioned by the Aviation Expansion and Panama Augmentation Programs are being engineered as rapidly as approved ultimate building layout plans are received from The Quartermaster General. Purchases of large quantities of the major items of material and equipment are being placed in order to expedite delivery as much as practicable.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE

40. During the past quarter, the following training films have been released to the Service in 35mm. size prints. Preparation and distribution of 16mm. prints will soon be completed.

- TF 101 "Employment and Operation of Submarine Mine Battery."  
(Shows the organization and equipment of the Submarine Mine Battery. Loading of the mine planter is demonstrated; mines are loaded; and procedure involved in laying and firing submarine mines is explained and described.) 4 reels.
- TF 103 "Truck-drawn Units - Reconnaissance and Preparation of Routes."  
(Covers the preliminary reconnaissance necessary before operating over difficult terrain. There is shown the steps which must be taken to prepare routes for the movement of vehicles over them.) 1 reel.
- TF 104 "Truck-drawn Units - Difficult Terrain."  
(Covers the procedure to be employed when motor vehicles must be moved over terrain presenting natural obstacles, other than stream crossings. Field expedients to permit movement of motor vehicles over difficult terrain are explained and demonstrated.) 3 reels.
- TF 105 "Truck-drawn Units - Stream Crossings."  
(Field expedients to permit movement of motor vehicles across streams of various sizes are explained and demonstrated.) 2 reels.
- TF 106 "Truck-drawn Units - Movement of Disabled Vehicles."  
(In this film is explained and demonstrated the technique of replacing in operation vehicles which have become disabled through overturning and bogging down.) 1 reel.
- TF 111 "Preparation of Fire - The Mil Relation."  
(This training film defines and describes the mil and the applicability of the mil relation to military use.) 1 reel.
- TF 112 "Preparation of Fire - Instruments."  
(Shows and describes the use of instruments used by the Field Artillery in the preparation of fire.) 1 reel.

41. The photographic work on the following training films has been completed and editorial work is in progress.

Infantry Antiaircraft Defense  
Air Corps Observation - Field Artillery Missions

Machining of Artillery Projectiles  
75mm. Gun M1897 A4  
75mm. Gun Model M2A-2  
Floating Bridge Construction  
155 mm. Howitzer M1918A1

42. Training Film No. 70 "The Soldier, Instruction, Dismounted Without Arms" has been declared obsolete and should be removed from all distribution lists. Plans are under way to make a complete revision of this subject in accordance with the new Infantry drill. This will be a sound picture.

43. Excellent still picture coverage was obtained during the First Army Maneuvers at Manassas, Virginia, and at Plattsburg Barracks, New York.

XI

WAR DEPARTMENT MESSAGE CENTER

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

44. Installation was completed of 10 KW DC and 15 KW AC gasoline driven auxiliary generators.

Power switchboard and rewiring secondary circuits to balance loads was also completed.

Equipment in the War Department Message Center was rearranged to allow for expansion in the Receiving and Routing Section, and installation of the transmitting and receiving positions for the Washington-Puerto Rican circuit.

45. At the transmitting station at Fort Myer the 1/2 KW transmitter was converted to 1KW and plans were prepared and equipment obtained for installation of two additional rhombic antennas.

46. Major Edward F. French arrived September 16th and assumed charge of the War Department Message Center.

## XII

## FORT MONMOUTH

47. Fifty-First Signal Battalion: Departed from Fort Monmouth, at 7:00 a.m., July 5, 1939, en route to the First Army Maneuver Area at Plattsburg Barracks, New York, by its own organic motor transportation. The Battalion, with attached personnel, consisted of 12 officers and 267 enlisted men, the convoy consisting of 51 motor vehicles divided into 3 sections. An overnight stop was made at Schenectady, N. Y., and the Battalion arrived at Plattsburg on the 6th. A base camp was established in the old CCC area and construction work started on the umpire communication system on July 7th.

When completed, the Battalion had installed approximately 236 miles of field wire W-110, 55 miles of number 14 copper twist, 5000 feet of 10-pair #22 rubber covered cable, 2 miles of 5-pair #22 rubber covered cable, 1 mile of 100-pair lead covered cable and 40 miles of number .104 copper, installed on standard ten-pin arms. 150 ten-pin arms were needed for the open wire while 800 lance poles and 10,000 wooden knobs, IN-53, were needed for the W-100 and the copper twist.

During the maneuver the Battalion functioned as First Army, I Corps, and Umpire Troops. The communication facilities used consisted of message center, radio, telephone, teletype, messenger service, and pigeons. In order to have the system installed on time and to handle the heavy load given the various message centers it was necessary that the personnel of the Battalion work long, hard shifts.

As evidence of the outstanding manner in which the work was accomplished, the following Certificate of Commendation was received from the Commanding General, First Army:

## "CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Headquarters First Army  
Plattsburg Barracks, New York  
August 22, 1939

FOR ESPECIALLY MERITORIOUS AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE DURING FIRST ARMY MANEUVERS, 1939, THIS CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION IS AWARDED TO:

51st Signal Battalion

CITATION: The 51st Signal Battalion, for especially meritorious service in the installation of the Administration, Umpire and Tactical Signal Communication for the First Army Maneuvers, 1939.



This Battalion has worked loyally, intelligently and with untiring zeal in the maneuver area since July 6, 1939. The superior manner in which they have completed this installation is indicated by the ease with which it is now functioning.

(signed) H. A. Drum  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,  
Commanding

Major Harry E. Storms, commanding the Battalion, also received a splendid Certificate of Commendation from Lieutenant General Drum.

Staff Sergeants Talbot A. McDaniels and Clote E. Bland, both of Company B, were awarded individual Certificates of Commendation, from their Corps Commander, Major General M. B. Payne.

At the conclusion of the maneuver all material was recovered and preparations made for the return trip. The Battalion left Plattsburg September 5th, and after an overnight stop at Schenectady, arrived the next afternoon at Fort Monmouth.

After arrival at Fort Monmouth, equipment was unloaded and serviced and training resumed. Enlisted students of the Signal Corps School who had not completed their courses returned to the school on September 8th.

48. Fifteenth Signal Service Company: Forty-seven enlisted students were relieved from duty as students in the Signal Corps School and from attachment to Company and returned to their home stations.

Twenty-five enlisted students from other stations reported and were detailed to the Signal Corps School.

Fourteen enlisted students (Domestic Replacement Pool) were transferred to various other stations.

At present there are two hundred and ninety four men assigned to the Company. With the attached men, the Company is rationing four hundred and twenty-six men.

49. First Signal Company: The First Signal Company marched by truck, using organic transportation, to West Point on July 14, 1939. The purpose of this trip was to give a demonstration to the new First Class of Cadets of the operation of the Division Signal Company in the field.

The Company arrived at West Point in the early afternoon and moved into the hockey-rink, where cots were already provided. Because of the ideal accommodations furnished, men were free soon after arriving there to inspect the beautiful and historic surroundings. They were also fortunate in being able to see a parade of the First and Third Classes of the Corps of Cadets.

On July 15th the organization gave their demonstration, showing the signal company on the march, followed by the issuance of a signal order and the execution of same insofar as was practicable. This included a demonstration of the use of teletype in the field as well as the normal message center, radio, panel, and wire installations of a Division Command Post. A few Cadets were given the opportunity to send pigeon messages via the lofts of the Pigeon Training Center at Fort Monmouth.

The company's public address system was again found to be of great value in addressing this large group of men.

The organization entrucked immediately following this demonstration and returned to Fort Monmouth.

A very nice letter of commendation was given to Captain Wrege R. Horn and men of the First Signal Company for the excellent demonstration given the West Point cadets.

A truck installation of a BD-89 switchboard was made during July in order to service test it during the 1st Army Maneuvers. Three SCR-245 sets were received just prior to leaving for the Maneuver Area, and were installed in three Indiana 1 1/2 ton trucks.

On August 3rd, the company departed for the 1st Division Base Camp at Risco, N. Y. The march covered the period from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and a total mileage of about 390 miles. The encampment of the 1st Division covered the period August 3-30 inclusive. During this period the company furnished a detachment for a Provisional Corps Headquarters and for operating the base camp communication net in addition to furnishing communication for the 1st Division Headquarters during the various maneuvers.

One BD-89 switchboard was operated as the central of the 1st Division Base Camp and another operated as the Provisional Corps central. Both functioned in excellent fashion.

Four test model teletypes were taken to the Army Maneuvers, and several additional commercial teletypes were provided. Eight commercial monophones, common battery, being operated as local phones of the BD-89 were also tested.

An Infantry staff officer was knocked out for about five minutes when a severe lightning bolt hit the wire system.

The return to Fort Monmouth was accomplished on August 31st between four thirty a.m. and seven p.m., the last hundred miles being traveled during a rain storm.

The First Signal Company shipped its four wire laying half-track vehicles, its heavy tentage and other miscellaneous equipment by canal boat and barges from Fort Wadsworth to Plattsburg and return.

During September the company neared the end of its training year. All equipment that had been to the Army Maneuvers was carefully serviced. Twenty-five men were given preliminary pistol instruction prior to the Supplementary Pistol Firing to be held in October. Thirty-seven students were returned to the Signal Corps School on September 15, 1939.

The following commendation was received from Major General J. A. Woodruff, commanding the Provisional Corps.

"HEADQUARTERS FIRST CORPS AREA  
OFFICE OF THE CORPS AREA COMMANDER  
IN REPLY  
REFER TO: SigO 354.2  
HH/rec  
BOSTON ARMY BASE, BOSTON, MASS.

August 28, 1939.  
SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, 1st Division, Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York.

1. During the First Army Maneuvers a detachment consisting of two officers and twenty-six men from the 1st Signal Company was detailed for duty at the Provisional Corps Command Post. This detachment furnished all the key men in the communication system at the Provisional Corps Command Post and the detachment as a whole proved to be well trained and performed its duties most efficiently.

2. The officers of this detachment, 1st Lieutenant J. M. Brown, Signal Corps, and 2nd Lieutenant L. L. Gaddis, Signal Reserve, performed their duties with zeal and efficiency, and I desire to commend them for rendering outstanding and efficient service throughout the maneuvers.

(S) J. A. Woodruff,

MAJOR GENERAL, U.S. Army,  
Commanding.

50. First Radio Intelligence Company: The month of July was spent in preparation for the First Army Maneuvers. Practical field problems, with the object of perfecting the training of personnel, were carried out during the early part of the month. Later in the month the company equipment was serviced, packed, crated and loaded for shipment to Plattsburg.

The company left Fort Monmouth by truck convoy early August 2d, and arrived at Schoenectady late in the afternoon. After an overnight bivouac there the convoy left for Plattsburg Barracks where it arrived about 2:00 p.m.

For the maneuver the company split into two parts, one platoon going to the Blue (Regular Army) camp, the other platoon remaining to work with the Black (National Guard) forces. The intercept sections of both platoons did very good work. There were 450 messages intercepted during the Army maneuver. The company had considerable success in its goniometric work, especially in following the movements of the mechanized cavalry.

At the end of the school year in June, First Lieutenant Robert Frost, Signal Corps, was assigned to the company to replace Second Lieutenant David T. Griffin, Signal Corps, who was ordered to the Signal Corps School in September.

By October 1, 1939 the company expects to be moved in its new barracks at Fort Monmouth. The barracks building, together with its complete kitchen equipment, is the last word in modern design.

51. Pigeon Activity: The Signal Corps participated in the Seventh International Poultry Congress held at Cleveland, Ohio, July 28th to August 7th, 1939. The Army's Exhibit consisted of Mobile Loft No. 2, pigeons, "Spike", the World War hero, message capsules, pads and photo-murals. Greetings were sent from Secretary Wallace to President Roosevelt, via a Signal Corps homing pigeon, upon the opening of the Congress in Cleveland.

Following the opening of the Congress, homing pigeons were flown on scheduled flights twice daily. Many experienced fanciers did not believe it possible to locate a pigeon loft in such an unfavorable position and have birds home to it in the short space of time available. It became necessary to use Boy Scouts for the purpose of keeping the crowds back from the Mobile Loft landing board so that the birds might trap.

Staff Sergeant Clifford A. Poutre' addressed the Kiwanis Club of Cleveland on the subject of homing pigeons, their breeding, training and use by the Military Service.

During the First Army Maneuvers at Plattsburg Barracks, Mobile Loft No. 1, with birds, was used by the umpires for communication purposes, when beyond the umpire net.

The operation of this loft proved very successful in view of the difficulties encountered, especially with chicken hawks. Fifteen birds were lost due to hunters and hawks.

52. Mobile Public Address System: The Mobile Public Address System and its operating personnel were reported to the Signal Officer, First Army, August 13, 1939, at Plattsburg Barracks.

The two principal installations were made on August 15th and August 25th, for the opening and the closing of the First Army Maneuvers. Approximately 7,500 officers and senior noncommissioned officers of the First Army were present at the opening speech given by Lieutenant General Drum. Electrical transcriptions were made of all the speeches at the First Army Critique, August 25th, for record purposes.

Technical Sergeant Howard Dovey, R-55548, 15th Signal Service Company, received a Citation from the Commanding General, First Army, "For especially meritorious service in the installation and operation of the Signal Corps public address system during the conference held by Lieutenant General Hugh A. Drum, United States Army, with his officers, warrant officers and enlisted men, on the evening of August 15th, 1939."

53. Quartermaster Activities: This post has received a Federal W.P.A. allotment of \$50,000, and operations commenced on August 21, 1939. Some of the major projects in progress are as follows:

Extension to Packing and Crating Warehouse - Bldg. #61, for storage purposes.

Grading and landscaping around new barrack building.

Drainage improvements along roads in westerly portion of reservation.

Exterior painting of 4-Family Apartment Buildings.

A 1000 gallon hot water storage tank and larger heater are now being installed in the 15th Signal Service Company, Building #205.

All sheet metal smoke stacks have been overhauled.

The Football Grandstands are being repaired in preparation for the coming season.

54. Constructing Quartermaster Activities: The 125 Men Barracks is now about 99% complete. Certain installations pertaining to the refrigeration, kitchen ventilation and kitchen equipment remain to be completed. The kitchen equipment, purchased by the Washington Quartermaster Depot, includes steam heated stock kettles, a gas operated baking oven, two gas operated ranges, an electric vegetable peeler, an electric grinder and mixer, a battery of steam heated coffee urns, an electric ice freezer, a cook's table and sink, a bain marie, a work table and a preparation table. All tables are monel metal and white enamel.

A contract for laying linoleum throughout the barracks except on tile floors has been let and work is now underway.

55. Signal Corps School: The following extract from the quarterly report of the Signal Officer, Hawaiian Department, regarding the Overseas Replacement Pool at this station, is quoted:

"The enlisted men received in this department from the Overseas Replacement Pool at Fort Monmouth are extremely satisfactory. The training received in telephone or radio specialties at the Signal Corps School is such that with a small amount of additional local training these men are able to take their places in the various operating sections and perform their duties in a creditable manner. It is regretted that more men are not available as replacements from this source."

The opening exercises of the Regular Course for officers in the Signal Corps School were held in the War Department Theatre on September 18, 1939. The students, consisting of 23 Signal Corps officers, 1 Infantry officer, 1 Cavalry officer, 5 Marine Corps officers and 1 officer from the Philippine Army, were addressed by Colonel Dawson Olnstead, Signal Corps, Commandant, and Lieutenant Colonel Charles M. Milliken, Signal Corps, Assistant Commandant.

56. Visitors: On July 21st and again on August 4, 1939, the First Class, Corps of Cadets, approximately 450 members, visited Fort Monmouth. Each group had two hours to spend on the post. They spent 40 minutes in the Signal Corps Laboratories, 40 minutes at the Signal Corps School, and the remainder of the time in inspecting grounds, buildings and the Officers Club.

Each group arrived in 24 trucks from Fort Hancock, parked in column of twos in front of Russel Hall and were given a brief address over the loud speaker by the Commandant. Within two minutes after the trucks stopped in front of Russel Hall they moved out, one section to the laboratories and the other section to The Signal Corps School.

At the School they were divided into groups and after a very short orientation on school courses and methods of instruction, they were taken through the Radio and Wire Division and then allowed to inspect the latest types of field equipment on display.

At the Laboratories they were given a talk in which the following subjects were discussed: Research and development facilities and laboratories of the Signal Corps; Responsibilities of the Signal Corps Laboratories and of the Aircraft Radio Laboratory; Organization of the Signal Corps Laboratories both from a personnel and from a functional standpoint; The relation of the Laboratories to commercial development; Training and Qualifications of Signal Corps officers for duty at the Laboratories; A brief description of the military development processes including setting up of military characteristics by the using arm, development of equipment, service test and standardization. Upon completion of this talk the cadets were grouped into sections of about 35 each and escorted through the laboratories by a project officer.

Upon the completion of the inspection of the Laboratories and the School the entire group was assembled in front of the Officers' Club where they were furnished light refreshments and permitted to inspect the bachelor officers' quarters and the Officers' Club.

REMARKS ON THE INSPECTION

The first thing that struck me when I stepped ashore was the cleanliness of the ship. The deck was spotless, the railings were polished, and the crew members were in immaculate uniform. The atmosphere was one of order and discipline.

The next thing I noticed was the excellent food service. The mess hall was well-stocked with a variety of dishes, and the crew members were attentive and friendly. It was clear that the ship's provisions were of high quality.

The third thing I noticed was the excellent maintenance of the ship. The hull was painted, the rigging was in good order, and the machinery was well-oiled. It was clear that the ship was in excellent condition for service.

The fourth thing I noticed was the excellent training of the crew. The deck hands were efficient and well-trained, and the officers were knowledgeable and experienced. It was clear that the ship was well-manned and ready for service.

The fifth thing I noticed was the excellent morale of the crew. The crew members were happy and content, and they were proud of their ship. It was clear that the ship's command was doing a good job of maintaining morale.

The sixth thing I noticed was the excellent communication between the ship and the shore. The ship's radio was in good order, and the crew members were able to communicate easily with the shore. It was clear that the ship was well-integrated into the fleet's communication system.

The seventh thing I noticed was the excellent cooperation between the ship and the shore. The ship's crew and the shore's crew worked together smoothly and efficiently. It was clear that the ship was well-coordinated with the shore's operations.

The eighth thing I noticed was the excellent support of the shore. The shore's crew provided excellent support for the ship, and the ship's crew was able to rely on the shore's crew for assistance. It was clear that the ship was well-supported by the shore.

## ALASKA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

57. Stations of the System cooperated in furnishing communication for the Japanese Round-the-World Goodwill Flight in August while it was en route from Tokyo to Nome, from Nome to Fairbanks, where the plane was grounded on account of unfavorable weather, and then from Fairbanks to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Upon arrival in Seattle, the Japanese flight officers highly praised the service furnished.

58. The Army Air Corps Flight from Seattle to Nome and return in July was furnished communication service by System stations. Continuous contact was maintained with the planes at all times they were in flight.

59. The flight of two Army Air Corps planes from Spokane to Fairbanks and return in August was furnished special weather report and other communication service by stations of the System.

60. In appreciation for the communication furnished Navy flight operations in Alaska during July, the Commander of the squadron wrote as follows:

"During projected flight operations of Patrol Squadron 45 from Yakutat, Alaska, during the period 19-25 July 1939 several requests were made for weather information from the Army's Communication Service at Cordova.

"The information requested was received in an intelligent, accurate and prompt manner, which indicates a high state of efficiency and cooperation."

61. The Seattle-Ketchikan submarine cable, which is used only when radio channels fail, was interrupted on August 15, 1939. Tests indicate that the break is located approximately thirty-five nautical miles from Seattle. Repairs will be made when the use of a suitable vessel can be obtained.

62. Most of the equipment for the new radiotelephone channel between Seattle and Ketchikan was shipped to Ketchikan in September. However, opening of the circuit will be contingent upon delivery of motor generator equipment from the East which has been delayed and will not be shipped from the factory before October 31. Ketchikan was shipped a 400 watt high frequency radiotelephone transmitter and a high frequency receiver.



63. The new transmitting antenna constructed at West Seattle, with bearing on San Francisco, has been placed in service, and a considerable improvement in transmissions has been noted.
64. An auxiliary water tank was installed in the transmitter building at Anchorage. The transmitter station quarters, garage, and transformer rack were painted. Two coal stokers, hopper type, were furnished for enlisted men's quarters.
65. A 150 watt medium frequency radiotelegraph and telephone transmitter was shipped to Craig.
66. All buildings on the Signal Corps reservation at Fairbanks were painted by C.C.C. labor. With the cooperation of the Alaska Road Commission, a road is being constructed across the Signal Corps reservation to connect with the new road from 12th Avenue to the boundary of the reservation.
67. Emergency receiving equipment, including both vibroplex and converter to provide two power sources, was installed at Flat.
68. Contract has been awarded for furnishing and erecting two 195 ft. steel towers at the Juneau Transmitting Station and one at the Transmitting Station at Whitney, near Anchorage. A 600 watt medium frequency radiotelegraph and telephone transmitter was furnished Juneau. An oil burner was installed to heat the apartment house and transmitter station, and another oil burning furnace is being installed at the receiver station.
69. A prefabricated building was shipped from Seattle to Kotzebue to be erected and used as an oil storage house.
70. All station buildings at Nome were repainted. A keying unit was installed.
71. The Point Barrow station building was repainted. An exceptional thaw caused the warehouse to settle about six inches. The foundation was repaired in July. Material was furnished for a diamond transmitting antenna.
72. A hopper type coal stoker was shipped to Seward for installation in the city quarters. A 150 watt medium frequency radiotelegraph and telephone transmitter was furnished.
73. The Signal Corps building at Sitka is being repainted by C.C.C. labor.
74. Corrugated iron roofing was shipped to Valdez for installation on the Signal Corps building.

75. On July 19, 1939, Radio Electrician Vergne L. Hoke, S.S.L., slipped from a ladder and fell to the ground while working on the control cable near Juneau, breaking his left wrist and fracturing a vertebra. Mr. Hoke returned to duty on September 2.

For the Chief Signal Officer.

*Clyde Eastman*

Clyde L. Eastman  
Colonel, Signal Corps,  
Executive.