NOV. 1942

INFORMATION LETTER

Vol. 17 No. 11

UNRESTRICTED

War Department • Office of the Chief Signal Officer
Washington, D. C.

THE OFFICIAL POSTER that adorns the cover of this issue of the Information Letter represents the spirit of the Signal Corps to "Get The Message Through." It compresses within its frame a picture of military men to whom flame and fire, bomb and bullet, death and destruction are only spurs to the successful completion of a mission.

For the Signal Corps soldier must not only be tough in body, aggressive in spirit, skilled in the use of the weapons of war. He must also be a technician—able to rig a line, operate a radio set, repair a telephone switchboard.

All this he must do, and do well, under the hell and and fury of battle.

To the men of the Signal Corps, then—to the men who link ground and air forces, command and troops, ouposts and headquarters—to the men who are "the nerve center of the Army"——

This poster is dedicated.

THE NOVEMBER
Information Letter
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES BRANCH—SIGNAL CORPS, U. S. ARMY

Number 11 - Unrestricted Washington, D. C.

NOTABLES ATTEND CEREMONIES DEDICATING NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTER

General Olmstead and Mayor LaGuardia Laud Achievements of Army Pictorial Service

THE FORMAL dedication of the Army's first permanent photographic installation in the fabulous Paramount Studios at Astoria, Long Island City, N. Y., on September 22, was a red letter day for the Signal Corps.

Although this was no frivolous pre-war Hollywood world premiere with its attendant klieg lights, jewelled glamour girls, and crowds of gaping autograph hounds, the event not only was an important one for the military services, but it was a historical occasion for the cinema industry, recognizing, as it did, the part that visual education plays in our modern, mechanized streamlined army.

Maj. Gen. Dawson Olmstead, the Chief Signal Officer, sounded the keynote in his dedicatory address when he told the assembled newspapermen and women—more than 150 of them representing publications in all parts of the country—that "the work being carried on here will contribute largely to the final victory of our armed forces."

The press turn-out was the largest and most impressive for a single event within the memory of even the oldest and most grizzled reporter. More members of the fourth estate were on hand at Astoria that day than saw the final pitch which ended the late world series.

The Army's acquisition of the Paramount Studios had struck a popular chord in the public's imagination from the very first announcement. The primary reason, of course, was that the present generation has been all but nursed on motion pictures and the millions of words written about them for fan consumption.

Although the Signal Corps Photographic Center was activated on May 8th, during the first few months of its existence while the kinks were being straightened, very little in the way of publicity was given to the public. The result was that the Signal Corps Photographic Center, and, indeed, the entire project, was partially cloaked by an alluring mantle of mystery.

Then the fact that the personnel of the post was largely recruited from Hollywood, plus the presence on the reservation of not a few enlisted men who in civilian life had been top bracket movie stars, helped fire popular interest.

Even the building itself in which the project is housed is legendary. Built in 1920 to be the center of that company's production program, the structure and its furnishings represented an outlay to its original owners of almost $10,000,000.

The speakers' platform. General Olmstead addressing the assembled visitors *Signal Corps Photo*

About a dozen years ago, Paramount transferred all its activities to the West Coast and the building which had once been alive with light and music and laughter settled down to a long period of drabness.

Several attempts were made to utilize the property. Commercial films occasionally were made there, and so were a few shorts. Newsreel companies rented its stages to dub in sound. Once in a while a shoestring producer took over to make a fly-by-night "quickie." And then Astoria sunk to its final indignity when its $10,000,000 facilities were used on a day-by-day basis to make juke-box movies.

The formal dedication and housewarming had been a subject of much conversation among newspapermen for weeks before September 22d. On that day, a bright sunny one after a week of rain, the guests were met at the two near-by subway stations at 2:30 p.m. by Army trucks and shuttled the five blocks to the studios.

Irene Thirer, screen columnist for the New York Post, described the event in these words: "It was a big afternoon—this department's first visit to the site since it was the eastern home of Paramount pictures some years back. In those days members of the fourth estate were conveyed from Times Square to the studio in chartered limousines. Yesterday we subwayed it, and rode from station to studio in a sort of Army covered wagon—and liked it."

The party was restricted to the working press—reporters, photographers, movie editors, critics, columnists, radio commentators, and editors and publishers.

Almost every member of the New York City Film Critics Circle was present, including Bosley Crowther of the Times, Kate Cameron and Dorothy Masters of the Daily News, Rose Pelswick of the Journal-American, Archer Winsten and Irene Thirer of the Post, John McManus of PM, and Herbert Cohen of the Brooklyn Eagle.

The guests were divided into small groups of from 5 to 10, and an officer was assigned to each group to act as a guide. The tour through the structure lasted about an hour and a half and showed every phase of the project in action. These included the animation department, the training film division, the film bulletin division, the still and motion picture photographic schools, and the Latin-American department.

PRESS SEES PROJECT IN PROGRESS

A training film on the recognition of "booby traps" actually was being shot on the main stage in full view of the visitors.

Shortly before 4:30, all of the groups assembled at one end of the 300-foot long main stage where an improvised theatre had been erected.

At 4:30 the ceremonies were put on WJZ, the Blue Network's 50,000-watt outlet in New York, and picked up by 140 stations on a coast-to-coast hook-up.

The broadcast was opened by Col. Melvin E. Gillette, commanding officer, who, after speaking briefly about the history of the studios, outlined the present functions of the project.

"It's our job here," he said, "to make motion pictures for training purposes. Of course, we are not claiming that the motion picture industry is abandoning Hollywood and coming to New York. But we do say that the Army is bringing quite a motion picture production to this community.

"We have two great needs as far as personnel is concerned. And that is not forgetting the tremendous job we have of securing camera equipment in these days when little or none is being manufactured.

"We need motion-picture camera men. There is a decided shortage.

"Another thing, we need news cameramen—real news photographers with experience.

"This is an Army post," the Colonel continued. "Our men here are soldiers and are subject to the same rules and discipline as soldiers at any army camp."

Colonel Gillette thereupon introduced the Chief Signal Officer, Maj. Gen. Dawson Olmstead.

Portions of General Olmstead's address follow:

"Today's ceremonies offer an excellent opportunity to impress upon you the importance attaching to photographic activities in this mightiest of all world conflicts. Up until the advent of motion pictures, photography was believed by many to be something in the nature of a hobby, or a recreation. But when the large news picture syndicates inaugurated the system of assigning photographers to every quarter of the globe to record important events, the public became picture conscious, so to speak.

"However, the Signal Corps' acquaintance with and knowledge of photography dates back well over 80 years. Among its treasures are negatives exposed by Mathew Brady, a well-known photographer of his time, and others during the Civil War. In the United States Army, the Signal Corps was the first to apply the science of photography to military purposes, and it is still undoubtedly foremost.

"Besides recording events for news and history as he did in World War I, the Army photographer in this war will record details in the combat zone for tactical information, since the latest research and developments have

Signal Corps Photo

Colonel Melvin E. Gillette, Photographic Center commander, at the microphone

Signal Corps Photo

General Olmstead reminisces with Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, a former Signal Corps airman

made it possible for photography to show the factual disposition, conditions, and forces of troops for study by intelligence officers.

"The Signal Corps operates in every theater of action throughout the world in the present war. Its photographers will be found in Alaska, Australia, India, China, England, Egypt—in whatever section of the world the United States Army happens to be.

"Signal Corps photographers have been commended for their bravery and courage under fire in the current conflict. Working under the most appalling conditions, they succeeded in obtaining many excellent pictures, hundreds of which have been printed in newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals."

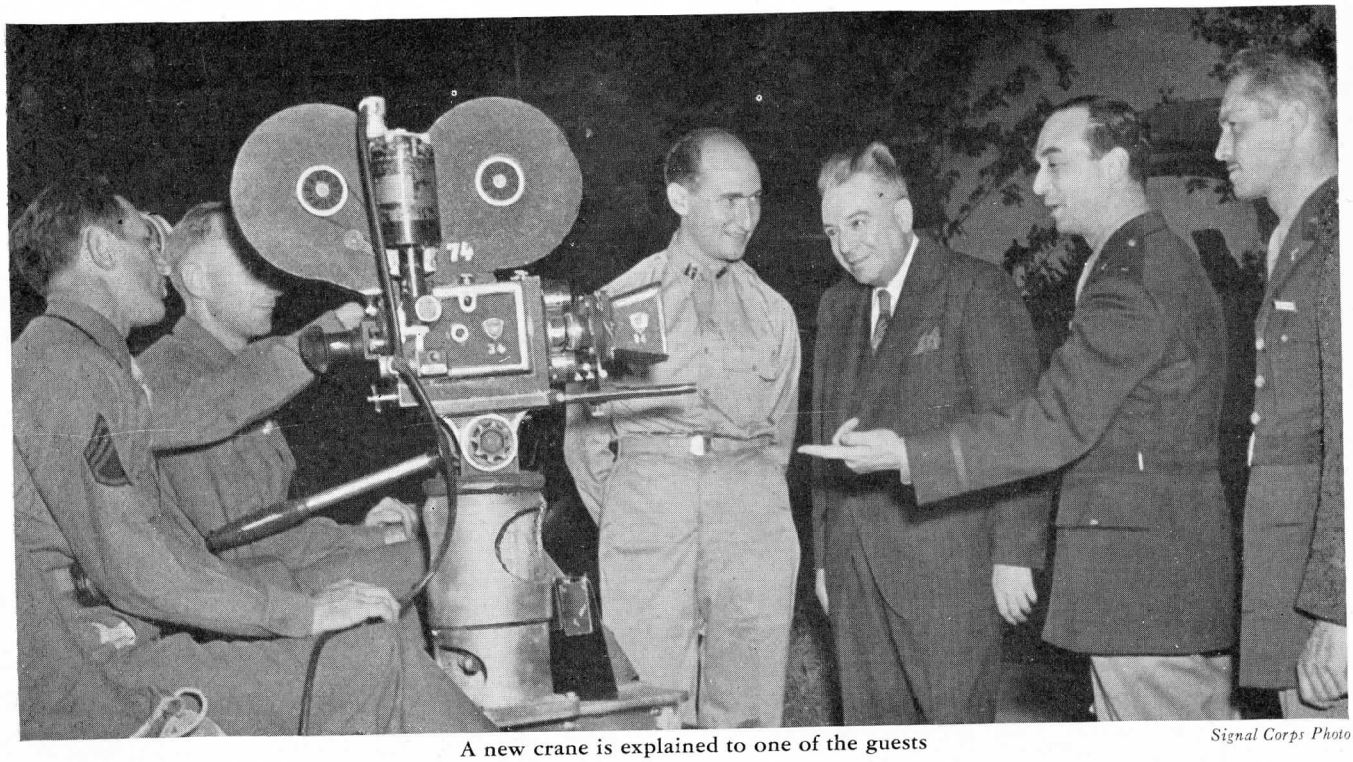
Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia had been saved for the last. Following his usual custom of speaking extemporaneously, there were no advance copies of his address to give to the press.

The reporters sat forward in their chairs expectantly awaiting a reopening of the traditional New York–Hollywood feud.

MAYOR SPEAKS

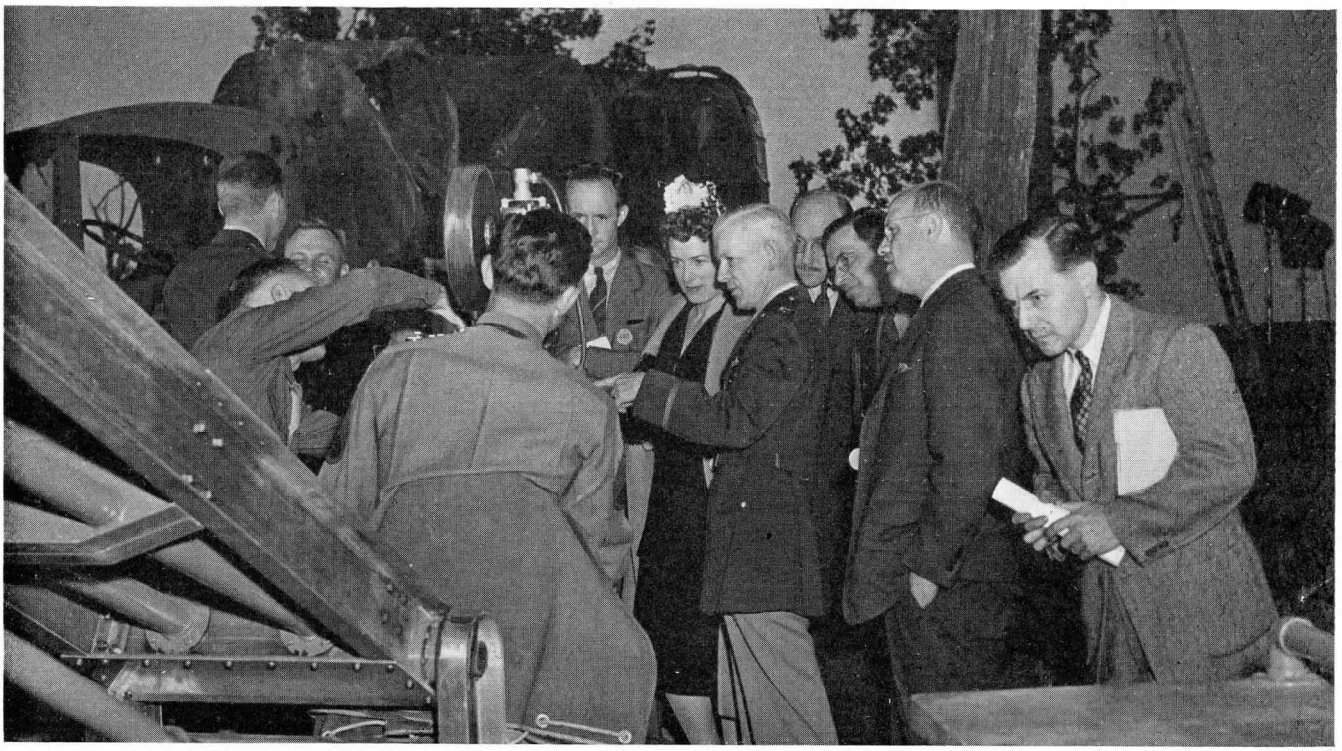
But after General Olmstead introduced him with these words, "And now, Mr. Mayor, it gives me pleasure to dedicate this Signal Corps Photographic Center in the heart of your great city," the mayor responded with a thrilling and remarkably successful plea to the public to respond to the Signal Corps recruitment campaign.

"I am very happy to have this important post here in our town," he said. "I have been trying to get moving pictures into this shack for a long, long time. I am more impressed and thrilled in witnessing the stars you have



A new crane is explained to one of the guests

Signal Corps Photo



The insides of a modern camera are shown to a group making the rounds of the studios *Signal Corps Photo*

here today than I would have been had I come here when the stars Colonel Gillette talked about were here, because you are doing such useful work."

The mayor added that he had had the pleasure of serving with the Signal Corps for a few months when the Air Corps was a part of the Signal Corps during World War I. Mayor LaGuardia was a pilot in the last war.

At the close of the broadcast, the guests were shown a selection of films. One was made up of clips from some of the historic films made on the lot from the old silent days up to sound. Then the visitors saw some training films and bulletins after which refreshments were served.

At 6, a few minutes before the party broke up, the big surprise of the day was presented.

Unknown to the guests, movies of them in sound were taken by a concealed camera, as they inspected one of the sets. Film shot as late as 4:30 was rushed across the street to a laboratory to be processed, and was back in the projection room an hour and a half later.

Some of New York's most famous people saw themselves on the screen for the first time and some in hilarious poses.

The Signal Corps Photographic Center, as it is now organized, developed from the Training Film Production Laboratory at Fort Monmouth, N. J., with additional functions and duties added after the activation of the new post on May 8, 1942.

On January 1, 1942, the personnel of the Training Film Production Laboratory at Fort Monmouth consisted of less than 300 officers, enlisted men, and civilians; yet small as the organization was, compared to its present ever-growing set-up it was a great advance alongside the peacetime training film project of the Army when, only a few years previously, the entire program was being carried on by 3 men.

At the beginning of the year, the functions of the Production Laboratory were restricted to the production of training films and War Department film bulletins. The activity was inadequately housed, and steps were then under way looking toward the acquisition of the property in Long Island City, to permit of expansion.

The War Department closed its option on the purchase of the properties on January 27, 1942. Possession of the property was taken on

March 1 by a small group on detached service from Fort Monmouth.

Actual work on extensive alterations to permit the housing of troops and adaptation of the buildings to Army film production requirements was begun on March 22. The Training Film Production Laboratory, together with the motion-picture section of the photographic schools, was moved to and incorporated in the S. C. P. C. on May 8. The still picture section of the school was transferred from Fort Monmouth on May 26.

STARS BEHIND CAMERA

In connection with the still section of the school occurred the only blue note in an otherwise perfect day.

But let Inez Robb, celebrated feature writer of International News Service, tell it:

"The ladies were disconsolate," she wrote, "when unable to run to earth Pvt. Jeffrey Lynn and Corp. William Holden, old Hollywood boys who are now making good in the Signal Corps Photographic Center at Astoria. Both, by their own request, now are behind cameras, not in front of them."

For many years the Astoria studios carried the brunt of Paramount's production schedules. Under its roof movies grew to manhood. Great stars worked there and memorable films came into being on its stage.

Billie Burke in her first picture "Queen Elizabeth." Buddy Rogers in his first.

Rudolph Valentino in "Monsieur Beaucaire." Ruth Chatterton. Gertrude Lawrence. Charlie Ruggles.

Gary Cooper and Claudette Colbert made "His Women." "The Royal Family," tale of the Barrymores, was shot in Astoria.

The Marx Brothers in "Cocoanuts." Eddie Cantor.

Ginger Rogers climbed to fame in "Sally, Irene and Mary."

Other stars who worked in the building were Ed Wynn, Nita Naldi, Tallulah Bankhead, Richard Dix, Preston Foster, William Powell, Gloria Swanson, Clara Bow, Miriam Hopkins, Elsie Ferguson, Pauline Fredericks, Adolphe Menjou, Ina Claire, Frederick March.

Maurice Chevalier made "The Big Pond." Jeanne Eagles appeared in the first full length sound picture "The Letter."

OCTOBER 24, 1942

MAJOR GENERAL DAWSON OLMSTEAD

CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER OF THE ARMY

WE OF THE SIGNAL CORPS ARE PROUD OF THE OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CORPS DURING THE YEAR OF YOUR INSPIRING AND ABLE LEADERSHIP STOP WE EXTEND TO YOU ON THIS FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND PLEDGE YOU OUR CONTINUED LOYALTY AND BEST EFFORTS IN THE YEARS AHEAD

SIGNAL CORPS OFFICERS COMMA

ENLISTED MEN COMMA AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

ARMY PIGEONS ARE STREAM-LINED FOR MODERN WAR

Signal Corps develops jeep-pulled loft and method of releasing birds from high altitudes

AS THE British commando fleet inched toward the beach at Dieppe August 19, the headquarters in England was constantly kept advised of its progress.

Messages, coming in at frequent intervals, told Lord Mountbatten's staff exactly what conditions were being met as the hit and run invasion armada moved toward its appointed task.

Radios, of course, were silent. It wouldn't do to let the enemy know of the approaching force.

Telephone? No.

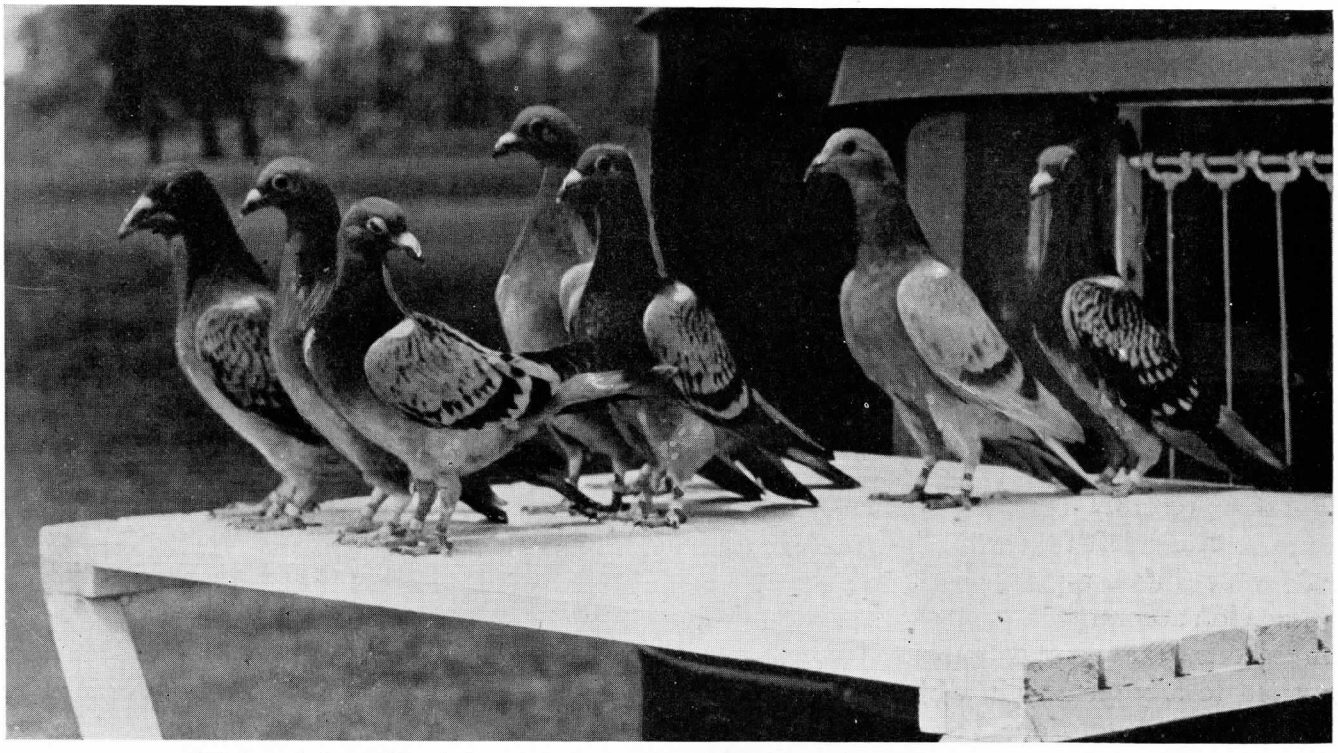
Semaphore? Wig-wag? It would have been too slow to relay messages that way.

The messages were sent back by pigeons. Each boat carried its quota of the feathered messengers. As a problem was met, or hitches developed, a note was winged back to headquarters.

Thus it was that the coordination of air and commando forces was achieved, and thus it was that homing pigeons once more came into their own as having a definite contribution to make in the field of war communications.

For pigeons, considered by the layman a relic of heliograph days, are still used to perform vital tasks for the Signal Corps of the United Nations' armies. Even though outranged and outspeeded by radio, pigeons can still perform functions the radio cannot.

For instance, a scout, 15 miles ahead of his command post, sketches a map of the valley that lies before him. He may be carrying a walkie-talkie, but even if he wanted to use it, it couldn't send the map back for him. He may not want to use it anyway, for it might give his presence away to the enemy. So, from a small container about the size of a lunch box,



Bright and alert. Signal Corps pigeons are noted for their proud carriages and stout hearts *Signal Corps Photo*

Signal Corps Photo

Army birds must "Get The Message Through" no matter what the obstacle. At the Pigeon Center at Camp Crowder, Missouri pigeons are being accustomed to fly through smoke

he takes the bright-eyed bird he has brought along with him, rolls his sketch into the message capsule strapped to its leg, and tosses the bird high into the air.

In less than half an hour, the pigeon is back at its home loft, and the map is being studied by G–2 at headquarters.

NEW COMBAT LOFT

Advances in the use of pigeons to supplement and even to supersede other means of communication continues to be made by United States Army Signal Corps pigeoneers. Out at Fort Meade, Md., the Signal Pigeon Company there has only recently completed tests of a new combat trailer loft that will allow pigeons and lofts to be shifted rapidly and conveniently.

Each loft accommodates 50 pigeons. Mounted on wheels, the combat mobile loft can be hurried to any vicinity in which it is needed. Where before it took one 2½-ton truck to carry a dismantled loft, today the same truck can carry 3 of them filled with pigeons. Or 20 of them, since they are collapsible, with no pigeons. Or one loft can be sped to its new location by a jeep.

These tests at Ft. Meade culminated recently with the sending of messages to the President, General Marshall, Secretary of War Stimson, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, and WAAC Commander Hobby by these birds. This was the first time a message to these people was sent by U. S. Army pigeons. The birds were released from Connellsville, Pa., 156 miles from Washington. They were set free at 12:28 p. m., and arrived at their lofts at Ft. Meade at 3:04 p. m. The messages were carried from Ft. Meade to Washington by jeep.

This was a speed of 55 miles per hour for the birds!

Pigeoneers start training the birds even before they can fly, taking them directly from the nests and teaching them to feed themselves.

Signal Corps Photo

Inserting the message. Back capsules are used only when needed for more lengthy messages. Most containers are fastened to the bird's leg

As the wings grow strong, the birds are let out for short flights each day. At the same time, the home lofts are moved daily a distance of 20 miles.

At the end of 3 weeks of training, the loft is put into a permanent position and the birds are carrying messages from as far as 60 miles away.

It is perhaps in the tests that were conducted recently by the Pigeon Section of the Military Training Branch that the means of communication of the present and that of yesterday were welded together to form a team that can care for all eventualities. Pigeons and planes bring together two means of warfare and serve to complement each other.

In England, the wedding of the hawks of the sky, the planes, and the swift messengers of the sky, the pigeons, has been perfected to a high degree. It is common knowledge that each RAF plane carries a cargo of pigeons, and that there are many RAF men flying today who owe their lives to their winged friends.

The most recent report is of "Winkie," a pigeon attached to the crew of a Lancaster bomber forced down in the North Sea, who returned to its loft in Dundee, Scotland, bringing a message for help from the nine crew members, afloat on a rubber raft.

That bird flew 350 miles, and was responsible for the rescue of the men after a day of hopeless floating on the sea.

METHODS TESTED

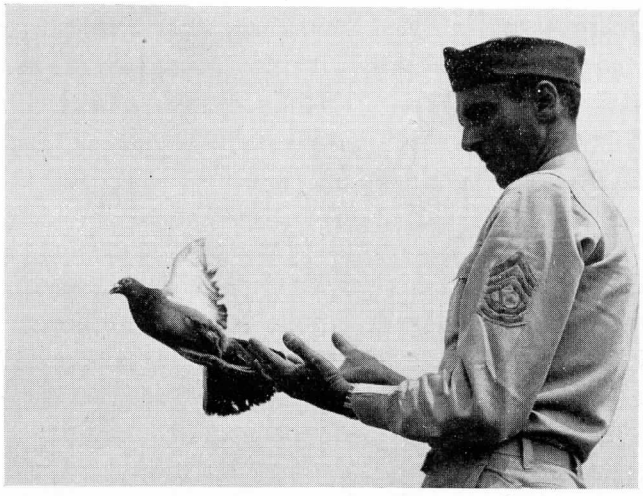
It is to utilize the knowledge that the English have gathered in actual combat, and to make even more efficient use of pigeons, that some 587 tests were made recently by the United States Army Signal Corps on the best methods of releasing a pigeon from an airplane in flight, and that two methods, simple and uncomplicated, were adopted for the American forces.

From a plane flying not faster than 350 miles an hour and not over 10,000 feet, it was found that a pigeon could be released without any special means without harm to it. However, in order to furnish some protection against the backwash of the plane's prop, and to make certain that no harm befell a pigeon released from a speeding plane, it was decided to use an ordinary No. 12 grocery bag, slit halfway down, as a covering for the bird. Upon falling a few hundred feet, the bag is blown off, and allows the bird freedom to soar away and head for home.

Since the atmosphere above 10,000 feet is too rarified for a pigeon to fly in, experiments in getting a bird down to its flying level were more complicated and more difficult of attainment. However, repeated tests finally evolved means that proved most effective.

This has taken the form of a "bomb," constructed of wire and covered by canvas to which

(Concluded on page 31)



Signal Corps Photo

Soaring aloft, this Signal Corps feathered messenger will circle and head for home

Signal Corps Photo

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Our National Anthem", comes the announcement over the loud speaker

EMPHASIS ON EFFICIENCY

An Inside Story of the Philadelphia Signal Corps Depot and Procurement District

IN TIMES less grim the Philadelphia Signal Corps depot and procurement district would be a show place of organized efficiency. Today, things being as they are, only the officers assigned and the civilians employed there get an inside picture of its broad and well-coordinated activities.

The establishment is so huge and deals with so much of the matériel of modern warfare that no one on the inside finds it possible to grasp the full extent and scope of the installation. No one, that is, with the exception of the commanding general, Brig. Gen. A. A. Farmer. He has every phase and every facet of the plant at his finger tips—a feat that he attributes in large measure to the intelligent teamwork of the military and civilian personnel, of which he is extremely proud.

The Signal Corps depot at Philadelphia is more than a depository for the big and little gadgets that make American communications superior in World War II. It is actually an industrial city geared up to intensive wartime pitch and operated with military precision 24 hours every day for the duration.

Inside its closely guarded walls are acres of warehouses and shipping rooms, flanked by mechanical shops of every variety. Within its bounds are big offices where a multitude of records are handled with speed and accuracy. In the yard surrounding the buildings are rows of cable reels, telegraph poles, heavy trucks, and other equipment that can be stored in the open. Railroad spurs, entering the place, facilitate loading and unloading. Purchasing Signal Corps equipment is "big business" these days and the items secured by the procurement district under the direction of Col. G. L. Thompson require the most modern facilities for storage and handling.

A big section of the headquarters building is given over to classrooms and training quarters. Under its expansive roof are a large cafeteria, an officers' mess, refreshment stand,

Work stops momentarily and everyone at the Depot stands at respectful attention *Signal Corps Photo*

and a dispensary—everything for the comfort and the welfare of the people who devote so much of their time and energy to "Get the Message Through." Unique among the many things to be found at the depot is the Signal Corps exhibit where practically all types of Signal Corps units and parts are on display, thus enabling contractors to see just what equipment is needed and which items they are in a position to supply.

WELL-EQUIPPED SHOPS

The workshops are fitted with every conceivable tool and device needed to repair Signal Corps equipment and, in some instances, to build it. Skilled specialists working in the shops run the gamut from those who handle the delicate tools of the watchmaker to those who build special truck bodies to exacting specifications. A laboratory under the command of Capt. R. W. Dennison is maintained to make initial tests on certain types of materials and to give technical advice to contracting officers.

Despite its size, the depot is no longer big enough to do the job demanded of it. Recently it has been enlarged by the acquisition of two annexes. Annex No. 1 is in charge of Maj. L. A. Souder, and Annex No. 2 is commanded by Maj. J. C. Weinberg. These annexes, both located within a few miles of the main post, are rapidly being made shipshape. Even at an early age they are obviously "chips off the old block."

The personnel of the organization has just been increased considerably by the transfer of the Storage and Issue Branch of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, with Col. Raymond C. Hildreth in charge, from Washington to the Philadelphia Depot. This move will bring about a closer coordination between the operations in the depot and those in the Chief's Office.

It's a military secret as to the type and amounts of Signal Corps equipment that lines the bins and racks and stands in well-ordered rows on the storage floors. But it's no secret to anyone at the station that the commanding general has a detailed mental picture of just what belongs where and how much of it there should be. As he makes frequent inspection tours throughout the building, he stops now and then to ask questions. Reference to perpetual inventories and floor plans are unneces-

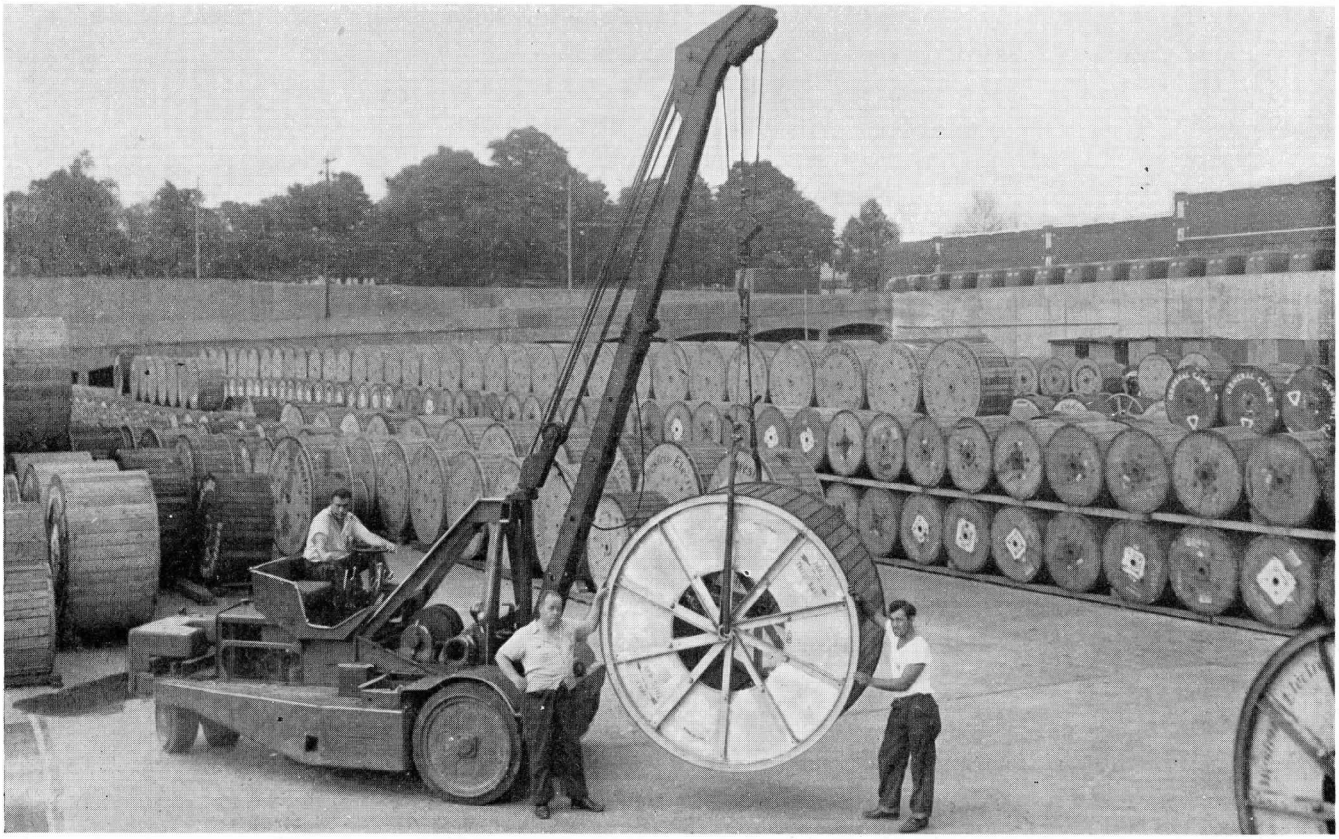
sary to remind him of things that are not up to war strength or that are not in position to be moved with dispatch. He is able to make these spot checks despite the fact that matériel moves into the depot daily by train loads and truck caravans, and moves out daily in equally mammoth amounts.

NO LOST RECORDS

The magnitude of the Signal Corps job is so great, however, that records of every type are essential. Records, of course, are meant to be referred to and they are constantly consulted by those whose business it is to use them. But reference and study of records does not mean that they are taken from the file room. Where data from the files is required, a photographic copy is made in a miniature studio located in the file room. In less than 2 minutes time the original is back in its appointed place and a photographic copy is in the hands of the interested supervisor. Thus records stay where they are always available, yet required information is furnished promptly upon demand. As Lt. C. F. Cooper, adjutant at the depot will attest, this is the only kind of system that would work efficiently in such a large establishment, since no one can anticipate how many people will want the same record at about the same time.

The office of Lt. Col. Robert J. Walsh, Jr., personnel officer, is one of the busiest spots at the post. He is always on the alert for capable employees and his assistants help to guide and place people at jobs that they will like and, consequently, do well. New employees are sent to the Training Department where they are taught to do an expert Signal Corps job.

Here, under the direction of Maj. N. C. Hale, O. I. C., Civilian and Military Training, competent instructors teach classes in everything from typing to pipe fitting. The Training Department is like a university set down in the heart of an industrial city. Rows of large, well-appointed class rooms, consultation rooms, and a library are used to advantage in training new employees for the work they



Signal Corps Photo

Mobile cranes move cable reels as if they were spools of thread

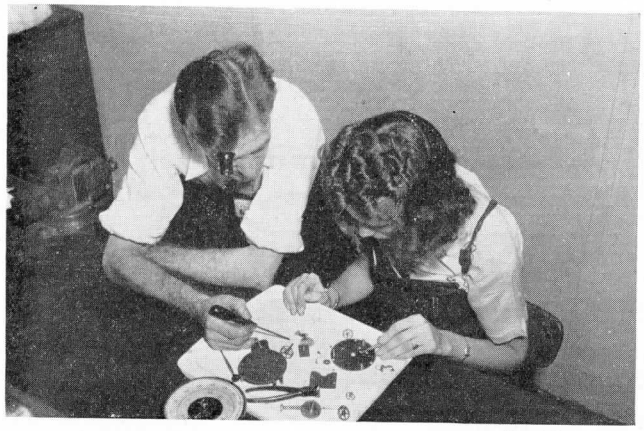
must do and in equipping "old hands" to advance to jobs of greater responsibility. The same atmosphere of orderliness and quiet that one observes in the store room is typical of the Training Division. In addition to the civilian school there is also a large officers' training school.

Dealing directly with so many industrial establishments engaged in turning out Signal Corps matériel, the War Production Drive is a major activity at the Philadelphia Depot. Under the chairmanship of Capt. J. T. Rhudy, industrial relations officer, the Depot War Production Board does much to expedite manufacturing and at the same time to recognize and reward commendable performance.

EXPERTS HELP PRODUCERS

Experts from the depot work closely with Signal Corps equipment manufacturers and contribute their technical knowledge to invent short cuts, new methods, and other procedures that will produce more in less time. No stone is left unturned in its efforts to supply the Armed forces with communications and equipment in the kind and quantities required. Financial assistance to contractors, in the form of advanced payments to expedite the flow of materials, is supervised by Maj. G. J. Stadtler. Under Maj. J. H. LaBrum, cost analyses records are kept and studied for the protection of both the government and the contractors.

Communications equipment must perform with high efficiency under all conditions in combat service. To insure this performance the Signal Corps maintains a corps of inspectors, many with engineering degrees, in plants manufacturing all types of matériel. The headquarters of the Philadelphia inspection zone are located in the depot with Maj. R. E. Roesch in charge of this important function.



Signal Corps Photo

Learning the fine art of repairing instruments in the Training Department

Signal Corps Photo

Brigadier General A. A. Farmer, Commanding General of the Philadelphia Signal Corps Depot and Procurement District

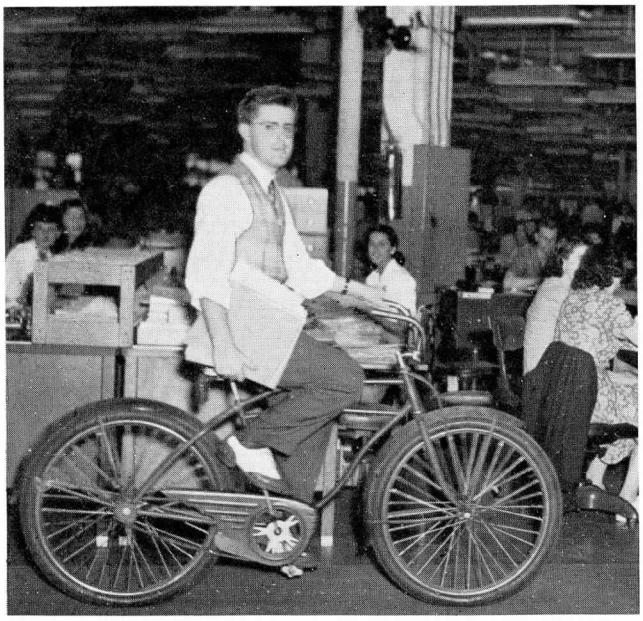
How efficiently the depot is operated can be gauged by the equipment that is employed to speed up activities. The nerve center of the establishment is a telephone exchange that is as big as the exchanges found in many American cities. Teletypewriters have been installed to send and receive messages to and from all parts of the country. Maj. R. A. Meier, Signal officer, sees to it that communicating facilities in the right amounts and at the right places are provided for the workers at the post.

Outside the realm of electricity, but nevertheless unusual, is the system of pneumatic tubes that reach out to the far corners of the building. To and from the points where there

Signal Corps Photo

The General office is a busy place, but it is run with quiet efficiency

is a consistently large exchange of written forms and orders, these tubes "get the message through." Messenger boys too, are far above the average in their alacrity and speed. Carrying the messages by foot is not fast enough for the pace of the post. Messengers at the Philadelphia Depot ride bicycles.



Signal Corps Photo

Bicycles cut down the time it takes to carry messages from point to point

COMPLETE PROTECTION

The concentration of so much valuable matériel at the depot calls for the utmost protection not only against sabotage and theft, but also against the hazard of fire. The job of guarding the establishment from every angle is an essential one.

Outside and inside the building, in the cable yard and along the railroad, guards are in evidence. They are a snappy crew and courteous to the nth degree, but you can tell that they mean business. Their military attitude does credit to the post and to Lt. A. A. Sadusky, officer in charge.

Equally alert are the members of the depot's fire brigade. Equipped with modern apparatus, the firemen are ready at all times to cope with any fire that might develop. Maj. T. V. Freeble, utilities officer, in charge of the fire fighters, trains his men for immediate action—always.

The most important factor, of course, are the men and women who work at the depot. General Farmer sees to it that they are given every consideration and their welfare is uppermost in his mind. Excellent food is available at the

cafeteria and refreshment stands are conveniently located throughout the plant.

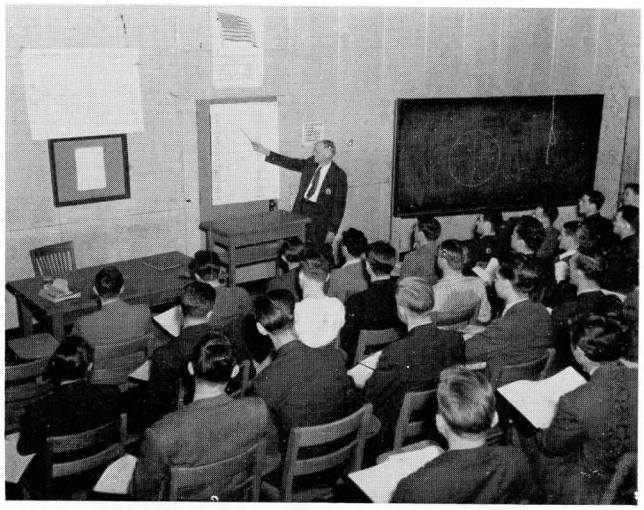
Contributing to the friendly atmosphere is a public address system that reaches out to every part of the establishment. General Farmer, from his office, can issue orders that are heard simultaneously by everyone. From his office he can direct fire drills and other activities requiring plant-wide cooperation.

THE MORNING CEREMONY

Every morning at 8:20 the visitor to the depot witnesses an inspiring ceremony. A record plays a military march that is carried over the public address system. When this is ended, the officer of the day announces, "Ladies and Gentlemen—our national anthem." Then, while all stand at rapt attention, The Star-Spangled Banner is played. It's a splendid ceremony and it contributes much to the morale of the force.

Maj. M. Berger, in charge of the repair shops, has rigged up the public address system in such a manner that even the men working out in the cable yard, who are under the direction of Lt. Col. F. J. Schaal, Signal Supply officer, can hear every announcement and every recording.

On the theory that accidents impede the war effort and that illness contributes to the enemy's cause, everything is done to prevent injury and ill health. An accident prevention committee, comprised of representatives from all departments, constantly considers ways and means of making work at the depot safe.



Signal Corps Photo

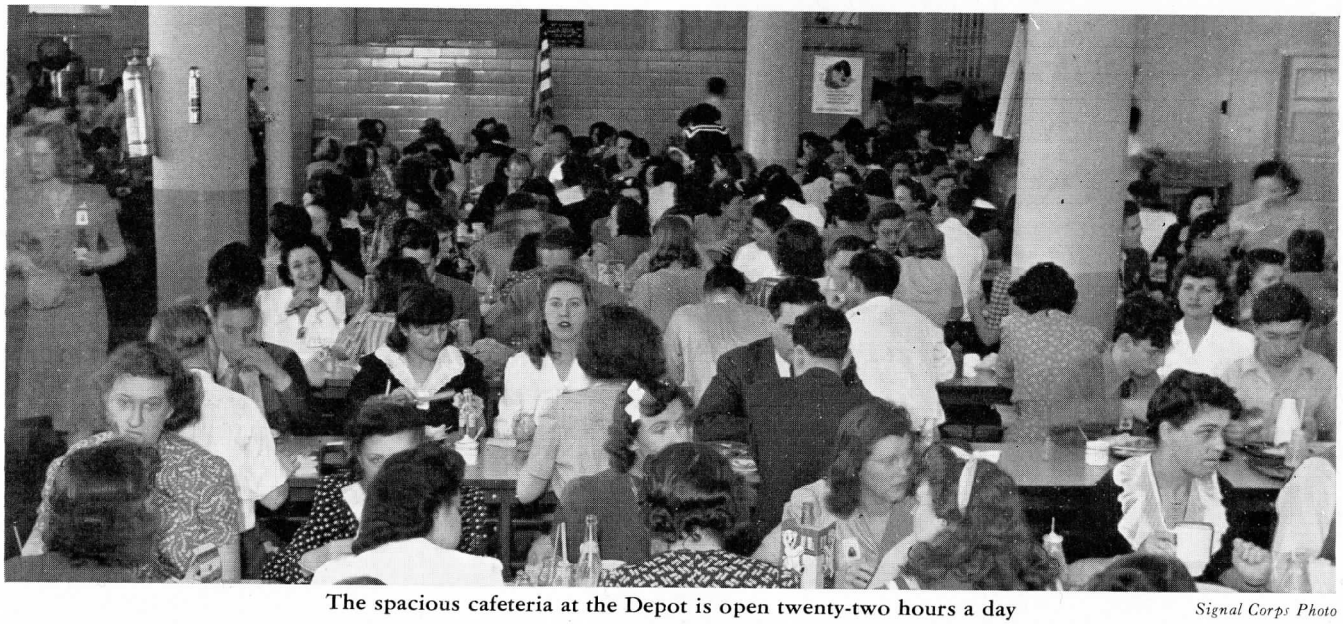
Students at the Training School learn why things are done as well as how to do them

There is a Special Service Section, directed by Lt. S. G. Warren, that looks after housing, athletics, and other factors that affect the morale of the employees. There is a wide variety of athletic activities engaged in off hours. Baseball, shooting, fencing, archery, golf, tennis, and horseback riding all have their devotees at the depot.

MODERN DISPENSARY

One of the most complete dispensaries ever incorporated in a plant is located at the Philadel-

(Concluded on page 32)



The spacious cafeteria at the Depot is open twenty-two hours a day

Signal Corps Photo

BATAAN CALLING

By Frank Hewlett, United Press Correspondent

An untold story of Signal Corps Heroes, reprinted by permission of Cosmopolitan Magazine in which the article originally appeared

BY CABLE FROM AUSTRALIA: The Japs were hammering our front lines in Bataan. Six twin-motored Mitsubishi bombers had just dumped their bundles of death near the Baguio nerve center of our field telephone system.

Private Weaver, a tall, skinny youth, tensely cranked the handle of his switchboard to break the bad news. Jap bombs had rocked his frail sandbagged shack, hidden a quarter of a mile off the road amid heavy tropical foliage. The nearest bomb hadn't gone off, and only time would tell whether it was a dud or a delayed-action bomb. But he got the message through.

"Those yellow devils did it again," he phoned to Sergeant Wilson. "Every damned line's out but the ones to 'Jockey' and 'Bat'." ("Bat" was code for the Fort Mills Exchange on Corregidor; "Jockey" was the signal company's base camp.)

Sergeant Wilson hurriedly summoned all available Signal Corps line crews for emergency duty. Some officers and men had been up half the night repairing the previous day's damage, but it wasn't necessary to waken anyone. The whole camp, from the major in command to the Filipino mess attendant, had dived into the fox holes en masse when the bombs hit.

Signal Corps Photo

Clearing virgin jungle on Bataan to construct a telephone pole line.

Three trucks with mixed American and Filipino crews swiftly roared out, hunting for the fallen lines.

Within half an hour General MacArthur was again able to talk to his key commanders. Before sundown all the most important lines were functioning. But it wasn't until the wee hours of the morning that the last dog-tired lineman returned to base camp and a hard bamboo bunk, and Sergeant Wilson informed the major, "Every circuit is now in, sir."

This was an actual and somewhat typical day for the U. S. Signal Corps personnel, whose work drew General MacArthur's recommendation that the War Department cite the complete organization. The boys with the crossed flags insignia stuck to their switchboards till the bitter end. Many fell from wounds or sickness. During those last dreadful days of Bataan I saw undernourished men suffering from malaria go out to repair lines when they should have gone to hospitals.

The war started only a few days after aggressive, hard-driving Brigadier General Spencer B. Akin, handpicked by MacArthur as Signal Officer of the Philippines, had been rushed to the scene by Clipper. He doubled the Signal Corps' strength by taking men from the Infantry and Air Corps, Filipino and American civilians with telephone, telegraph or radio experience, willing but green Philippine Army conscripts, and a few borrowed Navy and Marine technicians.

"They were the strangest collection in Signal

Corps history, but they did their job in a highly creditable manner," General Akin told me. For instance, Photographer Staff Sergeant Avon Sherman received the Distinguished Service Cross for grabbing an abandoned machine gun and helping check a Jap advance.

Captain Rolland "Frenchy" Saulnier didn't get a medal but he made American military history by jumping almost overnight from a private, first class, to a captain while he was still technically A. W. O. L. from his unit. Frenchy started the war as nursemaid for a few carrier pigeons. After a trip to southern Luzon where he freed his birds with messages for headquarters, he was out of a job. He attached himself to a Filipino division. By the time it reached Bataan, he was commanding a battalion through sheer nerve and qualities of leadership. After Frenchy performed a few more unorthodox but effective maneuvers, Lieutenant General Wainwright ruled that Private Saulnier, though untrained to be an officer, should have the rank which went with his job.

General MacArthur awarded General Akin the Distinguished Service Cross. Akin is now continuing his tireless work with MacArthur in Australia, where communications are likewise a knotty problem being solved in an ingeniously American way. The press has already reported a typical instance where, in a new camp, it looked as if it would take days to lay the vital telephone lines. Instead, a jeep dragged a plow across the bare fields ahead of a truck unrolling wire, which was promptly covered over by the soldiers as the Australian residents looked on in admiring astonishment.

They had little to work with in the Philippines. The Corregidor radio station was salvaged from commercial stations and from bombed Fort McKinley near Manila. Shells and bombs often knocked down antennae. One operator died with his headphones on.

Signal Corps Photo

Wire Chief PFC J. Warran repairing Jap-destroyed lines on Bataan.

One early April morning I myself saw the Signal Corps crew brave heavy bombing, working feverishly against time to repair the damaged antennae on Corregidor.

The last official report from Bataan's radio, late on the night of April ninth, said it must signal off by order of the Japanese Army. The undaunted operator signed off by telling his Corregidor comrades, "See you in the States!"

In the last message from Corregidor, Sergeant Irving Strobing of Brooklyn emphasized how the men didn't want to surrender but preferred fighting to the finish. "We will be waiting for you guys to help," he radioed, and told his brother Joe, who was also in the Army, "Give 'em hell for us."

CITED FOR HEROISM

Staff Sergeant Clarence T. Welch, Signal Corps, was cited for heroism and awarded the Soldier's Medal by the War Department October 3, 1942. Sergeant Welch saved the life of a Marine who had fallen into deep and dangerous water and had been caught in a riptide at Del Mar Beach, Calif., June 10, 1942.

SIGNAL CORPS INSPECTION AGENCY OPENS ZONE OFFICES

Headquarters is in Dayton, Ohio

IN ACCORDANCE with the directive issued on September 4, 1942, by the Director, Signal Supply Service, establishing the Signal Corps Inspection Agency, the first phase of the field operation of that organization began on October 5, 1942, when the five Signal Corps inspection zones under the officer-in-charge of the inspection agency, Col. Lester J. Harris, were opened. The five zone offices have been established in Chicago, Dayton, Newark, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. Each of these zone offices has been made responsible for handling the inspection and acceptance of Signal Corps matériel at manufacturing plants located within its geographical limits. Additional detailed functions of these zones include:

"Property accountability for matériel in transit as Government property from point of manufacture to first destination.

"Issuance of Government bills of lading and associated transportation functions for this matériel.

"Communication with contractors and subcontractors on technical and inspection problems arising from the production of this matériel.

"Communication with other Signal Corps organizations and with designated agencies of foreign governments on matters relating to the coordination of inspection and shipment of this matériel.

"Issuance of travel orders and transportation requests for inspection zone personnel, both military and civilian, and the necessary vouchers therefor.

"The assignment and transfer of civilian and military personnel and discharge of civilian personnel of the zones in conformance with regulations.

"Preparation of pay rolls for civilian personnel of the zones.

"Security functions and reproduction of the classified papers, specifications, and drawings necessary for proper functioning of the zone."

EXEMPTED STATIONS

The field installations of the Signal Corps Inspection Agency have been designated as exempted stations under the direct control of the Chief Signal Officer.

Also reporting to the Officer in Charge of the Signal Corps Inspection Agency will be a small headquarters section which will assist in matters of coordination and policy control for the entire agency. This headquarters section is located at the same address as that of the Dayton Inspection Zone office. The inspection section of the Procurement Branch has been acting as the temporary headquarters of the agency, assisting the Officer in Charge of the agency in establishment proceedings. The inspection section ceased to operate as such after October 4, 1942, and the civilian personnel were absorbed by the headquarters section of the agency in Washington, D. C., prior to its transfer to the permanent location in Dayton.

In order to maintain liaison between the Chief, Matériel Division, and the Officer in Charge of the Inspection Agency after the transfer of the Headquarters Section from its temporary station to its permanent location, there will be established in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer a small organization which will be known as the inspection agency liaison section consisting of one officer, one engineer, one stenographer, and one clerk.

Primary reasons for organizing the Signal Corps Inspection Agency are:

"To eliminate duplication of Signal Corps inspection organizations at manufacturing plants without sacrificing the liaison which now exists between inspection, engineering, and contracting.

"To reduce the distance between inspection units and the headquarters to which they report, thus providing for closer control of the manufacture of products under a rapidly expanding procurement program.

"To promote uniformity in Signal Corps inspection policies and procedures particularly with regard to personnel matters, but also with regard to methods and standards."

Inspection previously under the supervision of the Philadelphia Signal Corps Procurement District (including its Chicago and San Francisco field offices) and by the Signal Corps General Development, have been taken over.

PILOT RUNS

It is anticipated that the Signal Corps Inspection Agency will not be concerned at present with the inspection of pilot runs of newly developed equipment, nor with the inspection at depots nor with inspection of local purchases, except when requested by the contracting officer.

For the inspection of Signal Corps equipment in the pilot run and development stages, the Signal Corps laboratories will set up in their organizations field engineering groups through which the inspection zones can obtain decisions on engineering matters.

This type of organization has been considered wise because during the

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GENERAL OLMSTEAD SIGNS FIRST PLEDGE IN BOND DRIVE *Signal Corps Photo*

The Signal Corps War Bond Drive went over the top with more than 90 percent of the employees of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer participating in the pay deduction plan for a total of more than 10 percent of the entire pay roll. At the left of General Olmstead is Miss Katherine M. Leahy of the Civilian Personnel Branch, in point of service the oldest woman employee of the Signal Corps. Standing at the General's right is Captain Philip F. Murray, also of the Civilian Personnel Branch, who was in charge of the campaign

INSPECTION ZONES

The location of the zone offices and the territories under the jurisdiction of each of these offices are as follows:

Organization	*Territory*
Newark Signal Corps Inspection Zone, 309 Washington St., Newark, N. J. O/C Major Frank Prina	The northern portion of New Jersey including Mercer, Middlesex, and Monmouth Counties and the counties north thereof. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, Canadian Provinces of New York, New Hampshire, Ontario and Quebec
Philadelphia Signal Corps Inspection Zone; 5100 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. O/C Major R. E. Roesch	The southern part of New Jersey including, Ocean, Burlington, and Camden Counties and the counties south thereof. Eastern Pennsylvania including Potter, Cameron, Clinton, Centre, Huntingdon, and Franklin Counties and the counties east thereof. Maryland, South Carolina, Delaware, Georgia, Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, District of Columbia
Dayton Signal Corps Inspection Zone, 19 West Fourth Street, Dayton, Ohio O/C 1st Lt. E. H. Evans	The west portion of Pennsylvania including McKean, Elk, Clearfield, Blair, Bedford, and Fulton Counties and the counties west thereof. West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan
Chicago Signal Corps Inspection Zone, 1903 West Pershing Rd., Chicago, Ill. O/C Major E. A. Koerner	Illinois, N. Dakota, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Colorado, Oklahoma, Iowa, Alabama, Indiana, S. Dakota, Louisiana, Minnesota, Tennessee, New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Nebraska
San Francisco Signal Corps Inspection Zone, 2905 21st St., San Francisco, Calif. O/C 1st Lt. R. F. Hawley	California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona

HANDLING THE MACHINE TOOL PROBLEM

Facilities and Materials Explains Method Used in Signal Corps

DURING PEACETIME commercial activity, a machine tool was defined by the Machine Tool Builders' Association as "any machine which removes metal in the form of chips." Since abrasive cut-off machines and grinding wheels remove metal in the form of chips, they fall into this category. At the time of the creation of the Tools Branch of the War Production Board it was decided to include forming presses, forging presses, blanking and drawing presses, nibblers and riveters, bending machines, centering machines, hammers and shears in the machine tools classification so that their distribution could be effected under the allocation system set up by that agency.

METHOD OF ALLOCATION

The distribution and allocation of machine tools is governed by WPB directive E–1–B, Revised, issued September 1, 1942, and is administered for the Signal Corps by the Facilities and Materials Branch. This directive initially provides for distribution on the basis of 100 percent of the total machine-tool production, allocating 75 percent to armed service purchases, which includes contractors and subcontractors of the armed services. The remaining 25 percent is allocated to domestic and foreign distribution. Distribution within the 25 percent group is under the direct control of the War Production Board.

The 75 percent group is allocated on a percentage basis according to requirements of the various bureaus and branches of the armed services. The percentage allocated to each bureau and branch is determined by a list known as exhibit A, of Revision 1, of General Preference Order E–1–B. This exhibit A breaks down the machine-tool production into 58 subdivisions, each of which is allocated to the various bureaus and branches on the basis of their respective requirements. This type of breakdown is made since certain services require larger quantities of different machine tools than others, and hence should receive a larger proportion of the 75 percent production.

The Signal Corps is allocated 4.7 percent of the machine-tool builders' production, falling into the 75 percent group, this being equivalent to 3.5 percent of the total machine-tool production. The Signal Corps allocation is then broken down into the 58 subdivisions according to exhibit A, and the percentages will run from 0 to 30 percent, depending on the type of machine required.

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

The Signal Corps through the Facilities and Materials Branch distributes its quota of machine tools on the basis of critical requirements of the Army supply program. Therefore, it is essential that complete facts accompany a request for the machine tool when presented to the contracting officer. These facts must include the following:

"Complete specifications of the machine tool on order including the manufacturer, and the dealer, if any.

"The purchase order number.

"Date of the purchase order.

"Promise date.

"Required date.

"The name of the facility requiring the tool; if a subcontractor, the name of the prime contractor.

"The final product being manufactured.

"Whether the machine tool is for use on the production line or in the tool shop.

"That subcontract facilities for the work involved have been exhausted.

"That no second-hand tools are available which will do the job, and evidence of the search for the used tools be submitted with the request.

"That similar tools already in the plant are working 168 hours per week; if not, the total hours each similar tool is working per week and the reason."

The contracting officer will then have the machine tool unit in his particular procurement district verify facts as mentioned above. The request for the machine tool or machine tools will then be sent to the Facilities and Materials Branch of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, where the case will be studied and an allocation made. In the event that the quota of a specific make of machine tool has been exhausted, a machine tool of equivalent specifications but of a different manufacture will be suggested in order to obtain the best delivery.

PURCHASE ORDERS

When a request is made for a new machine tool which is not on order, Preference Rating Certificates PD3A and PC2O must accompany the request. This request will be evaluated as to its urgency, and an Urgency Standing and delivery date assigned. The certificates are then returned to the contracting officer.

There are two methods for determining the order of delivery of machine tools to contractors and subcontractors, namely, (1) by applying a preference rating and an urgency standing as described above, and (2)

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Highlights OF THE ORGANIZATION

Office of Fiscal Director

THE cost analysis section of the Legal Branch, Administrative Division, was transferred to the Office of the Fiscal Director October 8, 1942.

Hearings were held October 5, 1942, on estimates for the Alaska Communication System, F. Y. 1944, before the Bureau of the Budget. They were favorably received and from all indications it appears that the Signal Corps will obtain approximately the amount included in these estimates.

Legal

NOW IN ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

THE functions and personnel of the Legal Branch, with the exception of the Cost Analysis Section, have been transferred from the Matériel Division to the Administrative Division. So far as the activities of, and services rendered by, the Legal Branch are concerned, there has been no change. Legal Branch stands ready at all times to provide legal and accounting consulting service as in the past.

The functions and personnel of the Cost Analysis Section have been transferred to the Fiscal Division, where it will continue operating as in the past.

Legal Branch has a weekly uniform inspection of all military personnel, at which time all officers are inspected personally by the officer in charge of the branch or by guest inspectors. It appears that this practice increases the military consciousness of the personnel, and it also assures the officer in charge that his officers are properly attired in accordance with existing regulations.

INVENTIONS BY ENLISTED MEN

ARMY Regulation 850–50 permits enlisted men to communicate directly with the Chief Signal Officer concerning unpatented inventions, and many enlisted men have taken advantage of this provision. A number of helpful suggestions have been received from enlisted men, and in some cases new and fundamental principles of new machines proposed by enlisted men have been put to use.

Even in the major commercial development laboratories employing trained engineers an average of 1 invention adopted for every 10 proposed by the engineers employed is a good average. The percentage of good inventions proposed by enlisted men of course falls far short of 10 percent, but, nevertheless, in aggregate the suggestions constitute contributions of value to the war effort.

One enlisted man recently invented a machine which has been adopted and was found to speed up certain field operations fourfold.

A number of suggestions are received for slight structural changes in Signal Corps apparatus, and in some instances these suggestions have been found helpful during redesign of the equipment.

INVENTIONS SPEEDED

THE Legal Branch, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, maintains a patents and inventions section whose duty it is to forward as many good inventions as possible for the consideration of the various development branches. This section obtains suggestions and inventions from the large development laboratories, from the National Inventors Council, from newly issued patents, and from other sources. Even considering the outstanding merit of these large organizations equipped to make inventions, the ideas received from enlisted men cannot be ignored.

The Signal Corps Patent Board has been established to review meritorious inventions of Signal Corps personnel and this board frequently recommends that a patent be obtained for the inventor at Government expense.

Civilian Training

JOB INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

JOB Instructor Training was initiated by the Civilian Training Branch August 1, 1942, and the program has been progressing rapidly since that date. The original Signal Corps program has been changed in detail so as to conform with the program approved by the Headquarters, Services of Supply, and with the Training-Within-Industry Division of the War Manpower Commission. Key employees in the Civilian Training Branch completed war production training programs conducted by the War Manpower Commission and were certified as War Production Trainers. These trainers conducted during August and September, 14 Job Instructor Training conferences in which approximately 200 supervisors and key personnel were enrolled.

The Signal Corps is well ahead of schedule in this training and the plans are that the Job Instructor Training may be completed far in advance of the dead line set by the Headquarters, Services of Supply. The supervisors in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer may be well started on other phases of supervisory training by December 31. Reports from Signal Corps exempt posts and stations indicate that the Job-Instructor-Training program is getting well under way and that excellent cooperation is being received from the field units of the Training-Within-Industry Division of the War Manpower Commission.

PRE-SERVICE TRAINEES COMPLETING COURSES

PRE-SERVICE trainees classified as mechanic learners and junior repairman trainees are completing courses of instruction at the rate of several hundred per week. These trainees are being assigned to higher levels of pre-service training or to jobs in repair shops and depots, and in the case of Enlisted Reserve Corps men, are being called to active military duty. The Civilian Training Branch is acting as a clearing house for placement of trainee graduates in positions where they can be used to best advantage.

★ ★ ★

The Civilian Training Branch has recently received requests for the training of an increased number of Signal Corps Enlisted Reservists. The subjects and skills in which the trainees will be instructed are: Telephone installer-repairman, teletype installer-repairman, switchboard installer, cable splicer, radio operator, telephone lineman, teletype operator.

These employees are to be trained in public schools throughout the country in cooperation with War Training Programs administered by the U. S. Office of Education and in special schools operated by the Signal Corps.

Matériel

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

CHANGES in management and the substitution of women war workers for men in the industries of America during the critical period at hand have relieved many bottlenecks such as the story this highlight tells.

During the month of September, 26 percent of the men in the assembly department of a transformer manufacturing company resigned. This created a major problem due to the reflection on production and had become acute to the point that a prime contractor offered to accept a cancellation of its order when it became known to them the difficulty faced.

At this point, the field expediter of the New York Army-Navy Communications Production Expediting Regional Office was called in to help solve the problem. In conjunction with executive personnel of the company, the field expediter recommended that it begin with a realignment of the operating management. As a result, one of the key managers was relieved of his job and now production schedules are set up so that two assembly lines operate efficiently.

It was also determined that permission would have to be received from the State Labor Department to employ women on the first floor. In order to employe these women, suitable rest rooms were constructed, and, along on the first floor, it has been found that productive man hours have been doubled.

The increase for the month of September over that of July, due to the reorganization of the management, the new production schedules, the new personnel, and the resultant production, was 48.6 percent in the number of units and 24.5 percent in the number of pounds.

Thus, through the work of the field expediter in assisting in this plant reorganization, production has increased nearly 50 percent!

WORKERS SHOWN NEED

INCREASING production by attacking the standard of plant morale is most unusual, nevertheless, it happened.

It was brought to the attention of the New York Army-Navy Communications Production Expediting Regional Office by our field men that a company of Newark, N. J. (maker of molde used in the production of electrical equipment) was only working 45 hours a week. Investigation by our field man brought to light the facts that not only had the employees refused to work more than 45 hours but that they had absolutely refused to work Labor Day afternoon.

All efforts on the part of the employer to have the employees meet him half way had failed. At this point, the field expediter volunteered to help and requested the Officer in Charge of the New York Region to write a letter to the company explaining the necessity of complete cooperation immediately to relieve the burden of the fighting units in the field.

The letter was read to the employees by their president and result was an instant approval of the idea and immediate action in establishing a 66-hour week.

This 66-hour week is being carried on even though there are only enough employees for one shift.

Such a highlight deserves mention, if only to establish the fact that plant workers are getting behind the men behind the guns.

Procurement

PRICE ADJUSTMENT

DURING the past month, numerous conferences with members of the Price Adjustment Board of the War Department and its counsel have been held in connection with changes in section 403, Public Law No. 528, under which the various price adjustment sections of the Services of Supply have been set up. Due to the outstanding testimony of Under Secretary of War Patterson before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Finance of the United States Senate, it appears that section 403 of Public Law No. 528 will be amended only to the extent agreed upon by the various services.

According to the Under Secretary of War, it is the intention of the War Department to use the Price Adjustment Board and the price adjustment sections to assist in holding down the prices of war materials, while the Office of Price Administration will control the prices of civilian goods and raw materials.

Approximately 180 companies have been assigned to the price adjustment section of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer by the War Department Price Adjustment Board for overall renegotiation proceedings. Of this total number, approximately 45 companies have been referred to the cost analysis section of Fiscal Division for information necessary for overall renegotiation proceedings. Members of the price adjustment section have contacted approximately 50 companies either by telephone call or letter. Interviews have been held with five companies and verbal agreement reached with one.

New procedure instructions covering the relationship between the price adjustment and cost analysis sections of this office have been forwarded to the field representatives of the cost analysis section with a view to insuring uniformity of approach in connection with price adjustment matters.

PURCHASE

BID analysis subsection has been designated to perform the liaison function between the Signal Corps and the Office of Price Administration. This assignment now occupies the full time of one man and one clerk-stenographer. It is the responsibility of this man to assist Signal Corps suppliers in their interpretation of O. P. A. regulations as they apply to the product in question.

The establishment of this liaison contact also gives the Signal Corps supplier a single individual to whom all inquiries may be addressed regarding questions concerning maximum price regulations.

Early in August it became the responsibility of bid analysis to prepare for the Procurement Branch a bi-weekly report listing the procurements authorized on which formal contracts have not been awarded and the age of these unawarded procurements. It is expected that through compiling this report an accurate picture will be obtained which will be useful to the Procurement Branch by bringing to its attention at biweekly intervals the status of all unawarded procurement.

Military Personnel

CLASSIFICATION OF OFFICERS

TO discharge more effectively the responsibility of placing officer personnel according to individual qualifications, Military Personnel Branch, has initiated a comprehensive procedure to secure current qualification data by which to accomplish the classification of officers currently or subsequently assigned to Signal Corps schools and Signal Corps pools.

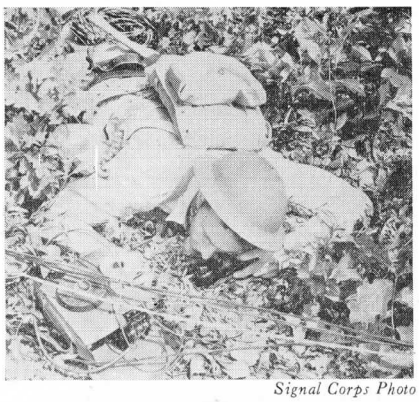
Due to the technical aspect of the varied jobs in the field of communications, the Signal Corps is primarily interested in classifying officers on the basis of the job or jobs they are qualified to perform rather than upon a general classification in terms of command, combat or staff duty, which in the past, has proven inadequate from the standpoint of the Signal Corps.

The Classification Section, Military Personnel Branch, has therefore developed the questionnaire form and indorsement principally to obtain a more adequate analysis of the qualifications of officers. The Commanding General, Services of Supply, approved the form for distribution to the Officers Candidate School at Fort Monmouth, and to the various Signal Corps pools. It is proposed to have each officer complete the questionnaire form and submit it to his commanding officer who will in turn add an indorsement as to the qualifications and capabilities of the officer concerned. The information called for in the questionnaire and indorsement is indispensable to the discharge of the responsibilities of Military Personnel Branch—"to fill personnel requisitions referred to this office with individuals who are technically and otherwise qualified to perform the required duties."

Furthermore, this information is urgently needed and will be used for the purpose of making an audit of the skills and abilities of officer personnel to determine the overages and shortages by types of specialties and therefore provide the Chief Signal Officer with an improved basis for establishing training programs.

OFFICERS APPOINTED UNDER THE AFFILIATED PLAN

IN connection with the affiliated plan and processing applications for post Signal officers, Army air bases,



Signal Corps Photo

Messages go from close to earth . .

Capt. Daniel J. Horney, Officers Section, Military Personnel Branch, has returned from an extensive tour throughout several States in which he contacted officials of various Bell System Companies and other organizations cooperating with the affiliated plan. Of the hundreds of applicants interviewed, Captain Horney reports that approximately 95 percent of them have proven to be excellent officer material. A number of applicants selected have already been appointed and have been ordered to extended active duty with the various affiliated Signal Corps units. Those applicants selected for temporary appointment as post Signal officers will be ordered to the Eastern Signal Corps School, Fort Monmouth, N. J., to undergo a course in basic military training and upon completion of the training, they will report to their permanently assigned stations.

WAAC'S WITH THE SIGNAL CORPS

AS a result of the recent detailed study made by Auxiliary Corps Section, Military Personnel Branch, relative to the maximum possible use which could be made of WAAC personnel as replacements for Signal Corps enlisted men, it was found that in view of the expected drain on enlisted men, approximately 2,000 trained WAAC's will be needed as replacements for code operators, telephone operators, radio and telegraph operators, radio mechanics, clerks, etc., in various Signal Corps units.

It has been proposed by Military Personnel Branch that steps be taken to establish a service command company of WAAC's on the same basis as the present signal service companies. Action has been initiated by Military Personnel Branch to secure authorization for activation of the Two hundred and twenty-sixth and Two hundred and twenty-seventh WAAC Signal Operation Companies. These companies are being activated for the purpose of demonstrating the effectiveness with which WAAC personnel will be able to perform Signal Corps duties.

In the proposed plan it is estimated that 5 months should be allowed for the training interval at which time the women will be thoroughly trained and capable of replacing numerous enlisted men.

FIRST-AID CLASSES

AS an indication of the esprit de corps and willingness to sacrifice for the war effort on the part of the civilian employees, Military Personnel Branch, it is reported that 22 employees are voluntarily attending Red Cross first aid classes three times each week. It is noted with particular interest that all of these employees are assigned to the night shift and their attendance at these classes, all of which is on their own time, indicates a more than usual desire to cooperate and sacrifice personal conveniences in order to be of service to their country during this emergency.

Military Training

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

THE United States Office of Education and the Commanding General, Services of Supply, have requested a pre-service training program in high schools and vocational schools throughout the United States. The Chief Signal Officer, through the Military Training Branch, has cooperated in formulating courses on electricity and magnetism, shop work, fundamentals of radio, and radio telegraph.

These courses will be open to regular full-time high school students, vocational school students, and adults who have left school. Enrollment in these courses will be encouraged by a publicity program carried out by the United States Office of Education and the Commanding General, Services of Supply.

Since these courses are based on the Signal Corps courses it is expected that students taking them will make maximum use of their training when inducted into the service.

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

THE entrance qualifications in the various courses of instruction being conducted in vocational and plant schools are as follows:

Radio Operators (Low Speed)

Army general classification test score of 90 or more. Signal Corps code aptitude test of 50 or more.

Radio Operators (High Speed)

Qualification as a low speed operator.

Radio Mechanic or Repairman

Army general classification test score of 110 or more. If a man has 1 year of high school plus experience in manufacturing or repairing radio equipment, Army general classification test score may be as low as 95.

Teletypewriter Operators

Army general classification test score of 90 or more. Two years of high school or equivalent.

Teletypewriter Maintenance Man

Army general classification test score of 95 or more. One year or more of high school. Experience in work requiring use of small tools.

Automatic Switchboard Installer

Army general classification test score of 95 or more. One year or more of high school. Experience in work requiring use of small tools.

Repeaterman

Selected from lower half of graduates from course for radio mechanics or repairman from civilian schools. Signal Corps Code aptitude test score of 50 or more.

Camera Repairman

Same as radio mechanic or repairman.

Diesel Engine Mechanics

Army general classification test score of 90 or more and previous experience in auto mechanics or similar work.

Transmitter Maintenance Man

Graduation from course for radio mechanics or repairman.

SCR–508 Equipment

Army general classification test score of 110 or better and a prior satisfactory performance of repair and maintenance of Signal Corps radio equipment.

Cable Operator and Technician

Code aptitude score of 50 or more. Touch typist. Experience of training as radio operator. Graduate from course for radio mechanics or repairman or teletypewriter installer-repairman.

Cable Splicer, Telephone and Telegraph

Army general classification test score of 90 or more. Experience in work requiring use of small tools.

Installer-Repairman (Common Battery)

Same as cable splicer.

C. Sig. O. Sets Quotas

Units desiring to send qualified men to civilian vocational and plant schools should submit their requests for quotas through channels to the Chief Signal Officer. The period of time the students will be absent from their respective units will be the length of the course, plus travel time. In accordance with The Adjutant General's memorandum No. W350–92–42, dated September 16, 1942, "Grades for enlisted students attending special service schools of Services of Supply," enlisted men detailed as students at civilian schools cannot be withdrawn in the event of movement orders, but will continue their course of instruction. Paragraph 1–i of the memorandum reads as follows:

"*i.* When students are attending special service schools on detached service and their units are ordered overseas, they will continue their course of instruction at the special service school and be reassigned to a unit remaining in the United States, in accordance with paragraph 7*a*, circular No. 262, War Department, 1942. Upon relief from attendance at the special service school because of completion of the course or for other reasons, they will be returned to the organization to which currently assigned."

NEW PUBLICATIONS

THE following manuals of interest to the Signal Corps are being distributed by The Adjutant General through regular channels:

FM 11–25, Aircraft Warning Service (Restricted).

FM 11–35, Signal Corps Intelligence (Restricted).

TM 11–232, C1, Radio Set SCR–177–B (Restricted)

TM 11–433, Time Interval Apparatus EE–56, EE–85, EE–86–A, Line Connector Unit, EE–87, Time Interval Signal BE–65 and Bell MC–153.

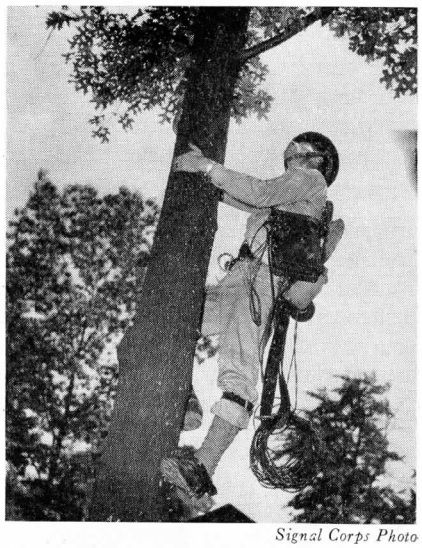
TM 11–434, Spotting Set PH–32–B.

Army Pictorial

SPECIAL PROJECTS

TWO more industrial morale films have been produced by the Signal Corps, one for the workers in the aircraft industry, "Combat Report", and the other for those in Government arsenals and privately-operated munitions plants, "Firepower."

The script for war film Number 4, "Attack Signal", designed to be shown to workers turning out Signal Corps and Navy communications equipment has been placed in pro-



Signal Corps Photo

. . . through wires high above the earth.

duction by the Research Council in Hollywood. It was written by Capt. Richard W. Maibaum.

Reports on reactions to "The Arm Behind the Army" included one incident in which a worker who had just turned in his badge and quit saw a lunch-hour screening and sheepishly asked to be put back on the job.

"I never knew how important it was," he said.

More and more requests are coming in for showings of the entire series. The script now being prepared is to be called "War on Wheels," for employees in factories producing combat vehicles.

FILM DISTRIBUTION AND UTILIZATION

EIGHT new training film sub-libraries and four auxiliary film libraries were established at military installations within the United States during the month of September 1942. One sub-library was established at a foreign installation.

Ten newly released training films and three film bulletins received initial distribution during September. This distribution included 1,096 16 mm. prints, totaling 966,728 feet and 282 35 mm. prints totaling 539,696 feet. Twelve new film strips received initial distribution during this month.

A total of 3,717 prints of regular training films were distributed during the month; this included 3,034 16 mm. and 673 35 mm. prints. Since August 14, 1942, a total of 4,833,688 feet of 16 mm. and 1,888,460 feet of 35 mm. film have been distributed. Film strip distribution totaled 16,803 prints.

The distribution of foreign films is now being undertaken. A system of approval screenings has been arranged whereby representatives of the Army Ground Forces and the Training Division, SOS, determine the suitability of such films for use with United States Army troops.

Two representatives have continued the second half of a 60-day assignment of temporary duty in the Ninth Service Command. All training film sublibraries within the command have been visited and conferences held with G-3 representatives.

Second Lieutenant James Finn, formerly of the Audio-Visual Education Service at the Colorado State College of Education, Greely, has reported for duty.

The distribution of mimeographed training film outlines of 25 "Films Every Soldier Should See" lists included in the revision of FM 21–6 has been completed. These outlines are designed to inform G–3 officers of the content of these films in order to aid in effective use.

Distribution has also been completed on sets of film sub-library booking forms designed to aid in the installation of a standardized booking procedure in sub-libraries.

FOREIGN FILMS

THE foreign section is now composed of the foreign film subsection, the foreign rescoring subsection, the United Nations Training Film Library and the field motion picture subsection.

The field motion picture subsection will be responsible for the procurement, processing, and distribution of all films of military interest exposed by the Signal Corps and other agencies in the theaters of operation throughout the world.

The rescoring of War Department training films in the Russian language will be initiated in the very near future in continuation of a policy already established with regard to films in Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese.

BUY WAR BONDS

Camp Kohler

ACTIVITY INCREASES

ACTIVITY at Camp Kohler increases daily as the training program takes shape, new men arrive, supplies and equipment are obtained, and necessary new buildings are added to those which were here when the camp was activated as the Signal Corps' third replacement training center.

Camp Kohler was activated July 28, 1942, as a post of the Ninth Service Command, and Col. John R. Young assumed command of the station complement, Service Command Unit No. 1933.

One month later to the day Brig. Gen. S. H. Sherrill arrived and took command of the Signal Corps replacement training center which was activated as of September 1, 1942.

As the training program got under way September 21 under the direction of Col. William S. Morris, new trainees were told by General Sherrill that the "ultimate purpose of all military training is the assurance of victory in war."

General Sherrill, speaking at the open-air theater at Camp Kohler's Oak Grove, outlined the methods and purposes of the training program and welcomed the new soldiers to their temporary Army home.

He stressed the importance of communications in modern battle, and explained the vital assignment of Signal Corps men in today's rapidly expanding American Army.

General Sherrill placed particular emphasis on morale, discipline, initiative, adaptability, leadership, technical and tactical proficiency, and health, strength, and endurance—all extremely important factors in training for successful offensive action.

BUILD UP RECREATION FACILITIES

STARTING entirely from scratch, special service and athletic officers have mapped a program of after-hour entertainment and athletic participation for the men of the camp. Movies are shown daily at an open air theater, and numerous sports contests are held regularly.

A mimeographed daily bulletin and weekly six-page mimeographed camp newspaper are distributed to the officers and men of the camp—both in the replacement training center and the station complement.

Four chaplains are stationed at the camp to carry on the organized religious program and advise and assist the men individually.

A complete staff of Army Nurses have arrived at the station hospital and additional assistance has been offered by women of the community through the Red Cross. A Red Cross field representative has been stationed permanently at the camp to assist the soldiers with personal problems.

ADVANCE FUNDS

ARRANGEMENTS were made by General Sherrill to obtain a $5 advance payment for the trainees when they arrive at Camp Kohler to provide necessary funds for personal items which may be needed before money is available from their first pay.

A replacement training center band is being formed, and will soon be functioning. From the musicians selected, it is planned to draw enough men for a show band to provide the music at "home talent" camp shows, two of which were produced and presented shortly after the camp opened.

In a short time Camp Kohler's whole program of activity—both training and "extra-curricular"—will be operating at full speed, supplying trained Signal Corps men to the fast-growing American Army.

Camp Crowder

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF DRIVE

Although the Army Emergency Relief Drive was not scheduled to begin officially until September 25, the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center exceeded its total quota by 60 percent in a whirlwind 10-minute drive on Saturday, August 29. A carefully scheduled campaign included simultaneous speeches at noon mess by nearly 1,500 officers and enlisted men.

★ ★ ★

In a recent drive to enroll civilian employees in the "10 Percent Club," 97 percent of the 97 civilian employees at the Replacement Training Center (100 percent of those present for duty) were enrolled within 24 hours for 10 percent or more, of their pay, all availing themselves of the Army pay reservation plan. Three employees were absent on annual leave. Upon their return they were enrolled and the 100-percent goal was reached.

★ ★ ★

Formation of the "50 Club," an organization open to officers and enlisted men who score at least ten consecutive bull's-eyes on the rifle range, has stimulated keen interest in marksmanship at the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center. A distinctive certificate is awarded to each man who meets the club requirements.

★ ★ ★

The popularity of the art workshop, sponsored by the Special Service Branch of the SCRTC, has increased since a contest was held in August. Using materials supplied by the workshop, artists entered pictures with subjects varying from landscapes to KP scenes.

During the month of August, over 8,000 noncadre enlisted men fired a practice and record course, and of that number 58½ percent qualified as marksman or better. On the 100-target Camp Crowder Rifle Range, a maximum of 675 men have fired for practice and record in 1 day's time. The highest percentage of qualification in any one day has been 83.9 percent. The goal, of course, is an average of 80 percent. It is believed that with the increased training time afforded by the new basic training program it will be possible to reach and maintain 80 percent qualification.

BASIC TRAINING

THE Basic Training Section, SCRTC, has been in operation since February of 1942. Until recently enlisted men have been given 86 hours of instruction in basic subjects. Effective September 14 the hours of basic instruction have been increased in accordance with the basic-training program established by the Services of Supply.

Under the new program, 4 weeks of basic instruction will be given to the enlisted man. New courses in defense against mechanized attack, field fortifications, scouting and patrolling, night operations, and other field operations have been added.

The marksmanship course is enlarged to include antiaircraft firing with the small-bore rifle. For this training there are being constructed three 500-inch antiaircraft ranges which include horizontal, climbing and diving, and overhead targets.

A regulation Thompson submachine gun range has been recently constructed and is now in operation.

The increased size of the school has necessitated the building and development of additional training aids. A demonstration area has been built showing the proper construction of sanitary facilities for troops in the

field, and an area showing the various types of antimechanized defenses and permanent field installations.

It is confidently expected that the increased time given to basic training and the broader instruction given will equip the soldier for speedier adaptation to the varied conditions under which he is likely to find himself in modern warfare.

WIRE SCHOOL

THE wire school, SCRTC, has developed a streamlined "trouble course" for the training of wire personnel in the method of locating common faults that may occur on field wire lines.

This new trouble course consists of 26 pairs of lead cable strung overhead on 20-foot poles. At every pole the cable is brought down and terminated in junction boxes. These termination points are called test points or TP's. The purpose of these test points is to permit the student to test either way on any line without breaking or cutting the circuit. At the end of the 1,500-foot trouble course, the lines are terminated with telephones. A man is stationed at each telephone while other men test for the fault and report on a form the type of trouble and the location.

This new trouble course has many advantages over the previous ones: such as elimination of field wire circuits which were formerly used and susceptible to weather conditions; the type and location of trouble may be easily and readily changed; elimination of the possibility of meddlers putting trouble on the lines; and elimination of confusion on the part of the student so that more circuits can be tested and his technique improved.

INDIVIDUALIZED MOTOR TRAINING

EACH school of the Replacement Training Center has either installed or is planning on installing an individualized training program. The motor transport school has installed such a program.

Each student of the motor transport school is given a preliminary test on the first day of school to determine the amount of training required to qualify him in the specialty for which he is enrolled. This preliminary test is divided into sections corresponding to the subject matter taught in each phase of the specialty course. Students receiving grades indicating that they are fully qualified in any particular phase are not required to attend regular classes in that phase. They are required to attend classes only in phases in which they have not qualified.

As soon as a man has shown that he is qualified in all phases of his specialty by making the necessary grades in the preliminary test or by making the required grades in shop and class work, he is reported available for transfer and is detailed to practical vehicle operation or maintenance until transfer is effected.

OKLAHOMA SMALL-BORE RIFLE CHAMPIONS

A NATIONAL record was broken by Lt. Vere Hamer and Lt. John F. Holmes, instructors on the SCRTC rifle range, at the Oklahoma Small-Bore Rifle Championship Meet. These men composing a two-man team bettered the national record in winning the small-bore rifle championship at Tulsa, Okla., on September 5 and 6. Lieutenant Hamer and Lieutenant Holmes were opposed by Thurman Randle and R. C. Pope an internationally known team from Dallas, Tex.

Both teams made a perfect score of 800 in the match, breaking the national record of 799 set by Thurman Randle and V. A. Moore in 1938 at the Camp Perry national matches. Officials had to resort to the Creedmore system of scoring on the DeWar two-man team course, which calls for 40 shots from 50 yards and 40 shots from 100 yards. The winning team was determined by figuring the number of shots breaking the "X" ring, a circle somewhat smaller than a dime in the center of the bull's-eye. The SCRTC officers clinched the match by hitting the most X's at 100 yards although both teams had a total of 64 X's.

Lieutenant Hamer, holder of the congressional distinguished riflemen's medal, won the DeWar course match with a score of 400. Lieutenant Holmes captured the 100-yard iron-sights title when he fired a perfect score of 400.

OFFICER CANDIDATE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

AFTER conferring with the assistant commandant of the Eastern Signal Corps School and the director of the Officer Candidate Department, an officer candidate preparatory school was established July 15, 1942.

Staffed entirely by officer candidate school graduates, the officer candidate preparatory school received its first students on July 18. Two weeks later and every 2 weeks since that date, 100 or more men have been sent to the officer candidate school from Camp Crowder.

The course is now 6 weeks long and is so arranged that the student has an opportunity to become accustomed to the rigors of officer candidate school training. It is believed and hoped that these men will enter officer candidate school efficient, willing, and well able to undergo training.

To date approximately 455 men, graduates of the officer candidate preparatory school, have been sent to Fort Monmouth to the officer candidate school.

JOIN THE TEN PERCENTERS

FORT MONMOUTH

HEADQUARTERS TO CAMP WOOD

ON October 11th, the headquarters of the SCRTC was moved 2 miles to Camp Wood, a subpost of Fort Monmouth. The move was accomplished expeditiously and with little interference to current activities. After a brief "shake-down" period, it is expected that the new set-up will function even more effectively than the old. Quarters on the main post formerly occupied by the SCRTC have now been turned over to the Officers' Candidate School.

Camp Wood is rapidly nearing completion several months ahead of schedule. It is expected that most of the finishing touches will be applied before the advent of cold weather.

INSTRUCT OFFICERS IN MARKSMANSHIP

ALL officers below field grade in the SCRTC are now receiving instruction in rifle marksmanship with the Model 1917 (Enfield) rifle. Officers first attend a preliminary course of instruction consisting of 12 hours of outdoor exercises and dry firing distributed over a 2-week period. Upon completion of this streamlined course, officers fire the practice course at Camp Edison. Several days later the officers fire the record ("C") course at the same location. To date, 73 officers have completed record firing and 51, or 70 percent, have qualified as marksman or better on the record ("C") course. The highest score so far has been 185 points out of a total of 200 points for an expert rating fired by Lt. Harrison G. Travis, aide-de-camp of General Clewell, SCRTC Commanding General.

The program has been under the supervision of Lieutenant Colonel Hogle, Plans and Training Officer, and the actual instruction in range work has been handled by Capt. John D. Carton and First Lieut. Daniel J. Loden, Assistant Plans and Training Officers. It is planned to give the marksmanship course to all new officers assigned to this SCRTC.

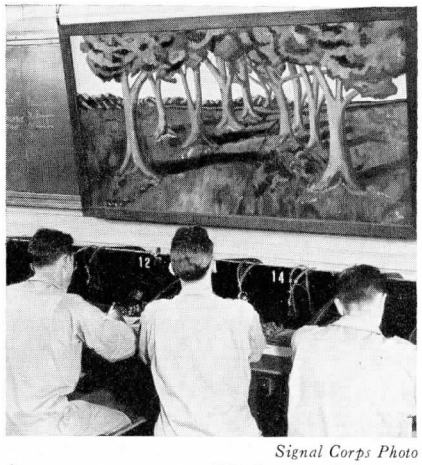
Several new items have been introduced into this marksmanship course, due to the fact that time limitations necessitated streamlining. The principles of trigger squeeze and finding the "target picture" have been stressed from the very first period of instruction in recognition of the fact that the first thing the pupil will do when given a rifle will be to aim the piece and simulate firing.

The course includes one period of orientation in all U. S. Army shoulder weapons and a brief discussion of the weapons used by the Axis. The coach and pupil method is used a great deal and practical exercises consisting of complete "dry runs" following correct range procedure have been found very effective. Efficient use also has been made of dummy ammunition.

NEW FIELD TRAINING AREA

THE SCRTC has recently added to its facilities a new field training area consisting of approximately 200 acres in the vicinity of Allaire, N. J. The area in question was formerly in use as a park by the State of New Jersey. Since it comprises both wooded and open territory, it is particularly suited for the instruction of trainees in the principles of extended order, scouting and patrolling, antimechanized defense, construction of road blocks and obstacles, also the methods of camouflage, cover and concealment. For these last purposes use is made of the new reversible camouflage suits supplied by the Corps of Engineers. These suits have proved of great value in impressing trainees with the possibilities as well as the necessity of individual camouflage. At the same time, they are instructed to make the utmost possible use of natural camouflage means as being most desirable.

For training in scouting and patrolling, four runways have been laid out in each of which a squad operates simultaneously in the solution of six different problems. These problems cover such items as entering wooded areas, approaching machine gun nests, crossing barbed wire entanglements, methods of crossing roads and streams, approaching enemy trenches, vacant houses, etc.



Signal Corps Photo

Art goes to war. Blinker training at Fort Monmouth utilizes panorama painting to simulate outdoors

A training aid that saves both time, labor, and gasoline has been devised in the Signal Communication Division of the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center. Field radio operators, upon reaching the stage of training calling for instruction in "Blinker," are shown into a darkened classroom and seated facing a mural depicting a pastoral scene. Suddenly, from the crest of a painted hill, a miniature light starts to blink and the instruction starts.

This type of training has proved very interesting and instructive to the students and the apparatus is also

easy for the instructor to control from any part of the room by merely having a line extension.

Learning by visual aids is being exploited further by the basic school of the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center in its field bivouac. Upon completion of an 8½-mile hike to an excellent bivouac area, the trainees are schooled in field sanitation and personal protection by actually having the opportunity of inspecting various "County Fair" type exhibits. In one section they will find a complete demonstration of sanitation precautions to be observed in the field. In another exhibit they will find actual "fox holes," slit trenches, and various items of equipment camouflaged. At the completion of the instruction the trainees actually make camp and bivouac for the night.

A room is in process of construction in one of the class buildings of the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center in which the walls and ceiling are painted to simulate sky, clouds, and horizon. From the ceiling will be suspended miniature scale model airplanes so that trainees may receive their instruction in identifying of U. S. Army aircraft by actually seeing planes in miniature as they would appear in the sky.

QUIZ PROGRAM AIDS TRAINEES

A QUIZ program has been devised at the basic school for the trainees involving questions on basic training similar to the "Information Please" program. This program is presented from the stage of the open air theater and is complete with music, master of ceremonies, and prizes. Competition is by companies and the company garnering the greatest number of points receives a plaque suitably inscribed. Each company is permitted to select one representative to participate in the program and some amazing answers come through under the inspiration of the master of ceremonies.

That the contests are close is evidenced by the fact that the three top scores of the first program were 26, 25.5 and 24 points respectively. The presentation has been voted a great success. It is proving to be just one more aid in impressing the new men of the Signal Corps with the importance of their job—to "get the message through." It may be added that the quiz program is put on with the aid of the Special Services Office and is given in the evenings, not during training hours.

INSPECTION AGENCY

(Concluded from page 18)

pilot run stages of production, engineering and inspection problems are so closely interwoven that it would result in no saving of engineering time to attempt to separate inspection from engineering for purposes of supervision.

However, engineering control is of fundamental importance and will depend very much for effectiveness upon close cooperation between the laboratories and the agency.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WAR SAVINGS STAFF
1270 SIXTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK,
September 22, 1942.

MAJ. GEN. DAWSON OLMSTEAD,
Chief Signal Officer,
War Department, Washington, D. C.

My dear General Olmstead:

Permit me to offer the thanks of the New York War Savings Staff for the splendid cooperation given us by yourself and other officers of the Army Signal Corps, in making a success of the War Bond Pigeon Derby which took place last Saturday.

We are particularly appreciative of the assistance rendered by Captain Thomas MacClure, Chief, Pigeon Section, Office of the Chief Signal Officer; Captain Thomas J. Fulton, Officer in Charge, Signal Corps, Pigeon Breeding and Training Center, Fort Monmouth, N. J., and the enlisted men detailed by authority of your office to assist in the liberation of the birds.

Such cooperation by the Army is of immense assistance in furthering the sale of War Securities.

Sincerely,

SYDNEY H. MACKEAN,
Publicity Division.

(Concluded from page 9)

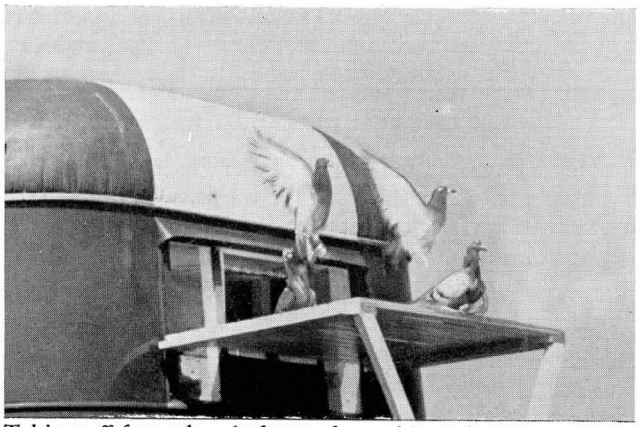
is attached a timing device that will enable it to open at any given moment after it is dropped. The timing device can be set to open the projectile in which the bird has been placed, at 7,000 feet for example, by simple computation of how high the plane is above the earth's surface and the known rate of speed of a falling body.

Even now, American planes, patrolling hundreds of miles out to sea guarding the waters that wash America's shores, are carrying these birds whose homing instinct is put to such use as is necessary.

Not only are they available for sending the call for help over hundreds of miles of water in case of need, but they are used to relay a warning when a hostile formation is sighted, or a lurking sub pack is picked up, and when the use of radio might give away to the enemy the news that they have been spotted.

So complete have these preparations been, that should a pilot not have time nor facilities for writing a message the arrival of a bird at its home loft would set in motion the help that was required.

All Signal Corps birds are banded and numbered, and the arrival of a pigeon without a message could mean but one thing: trouble. Since it is of record which plane each bird is with, and the plane's course is known, it takes little checking to determine in what zone trouble is brewing.



Taking off from the platform of a mobile loft. These Signal Corps birds will return to this travelling home from hundreds of miles away

The Signal Corps has even developed a means of dropping pigeons to parachute units so that they too, forced to radio silence by the need for secrecy, can communicate with their headquarters. This parachute method is also used to get a means of communication to isolated units that may not have radio facilities, or whose radio has been put out of commission.

In Ancient Rome, military messages were sent from place to place by swallows. This is the earliest recorded history in which birds were used as a vital part of the military forces. It was during the Crusades of the Middle Ages that the Knights of the Cross found their Saracen enemies using pigeons to relay messages over vast distances of the Holy Land. During the siege of Paris in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, the beleaguered citizens of that ill-fated city kept in constant communication with the outside world through the use of pigeons.

It was in the South African War of 1899–1902 that the birds were used extensively, and played a distinct part in the relief of Ladysmith, Kimberly, and Mafeking, names that rank high in English history.

Literally thousands of pigeons were used during World War I, and many were the deeds of heroism recorded of wounded birds fighting their way through to their home lofts, bringing back information that vitally changed the course of battles. It is estimated that 96 out of every 100 messages sent by pigeon during the first World War came through.

And, of course, "Cher Amie" of Lost Battalion fame, is known the world over.

At Signal Corps pigeon headquarters in the Pentagon Building in Virginia, a constant search for methods of improving the means of communications, through the use of pigeons, and for utilizing the last ounce of potential aid that pigeons can furnish, is carried on. The feathered flyers of the Army, who trace their military traditions back to the days before Richard Couer de Lion, have been tested and tried in this day of huge distances and lightning speed of communications, and have not been found wanting.

PHILADELPHIA DEPOT

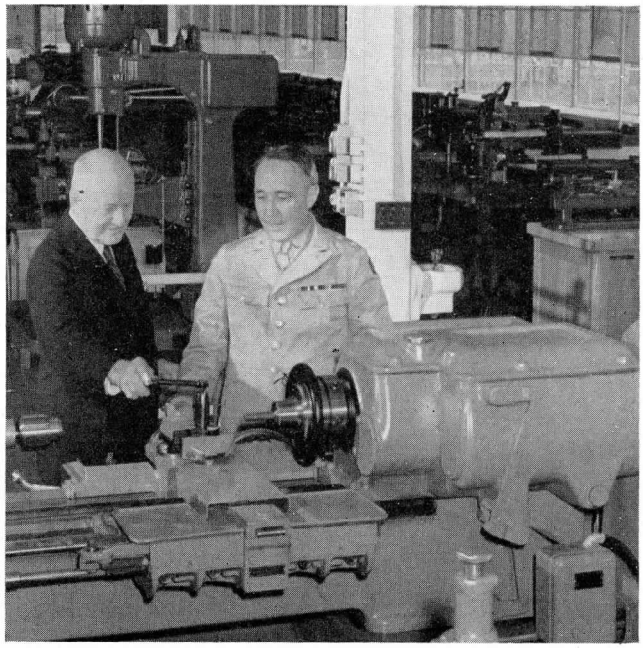
(Concluded from page 15)

phia Depot. It is equipped for any emergency. On duty at all times is a staff of doctors, nurses, and technicians. The dispensary is in charge of Lt. Col. J. F. Aubrey, post surgeon, who is assisted by Contract Surgeons James Deehan and Francis J. Renzulli.

The welfare of the people at the depot transcends the realm of food and health. They work better and enjoy their work more when they are employed in pleasant surroundings. A grounds and buildings committee, composed of representatives from all departments, considers plans and methods of keeping the grounds in splendid shape, without, of course, impairing the efficiency of the post.

One rule at the Philadelphia Depot is "Practice what you Preach," and it is a rule that is put into practice in every conceivable way. Means and measures to improve conditions at other places do not end the studies made by the Depot's experts, however. One of the biggest and most vital plants in the entire procurement, storage, and distribution set-up of the Army is the depot itself. What happens there is continuously under the closest scrutiny and study. Can this method be improved? If the answer is "yes"—a way for improvement is found.

When the war is over and the whole story of the Philadelphia Signal Corps Depot and Procurement District is spread on the pages of history, it will be known to all—everywhere—that it succeeded superbly in procuring, issuing, and maintaining the goods that "Get the message through."



(N. Y. Times Photo)

RADIO'S WAR EFFORT TAKES ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

Major General Dawson Olmstead and Lieutenant General James G. Harbord inspecting the new RCA Laboratories at Princeton, N. J., upon the occasion of their dedication September 27, 1942

BOTTLES AND SIGNALS

A RECENT newspaper item tells of an ingenious stunt used by the British Royal Corps of Signals in the Middle East. The signal men were confronted with a shortage of insulators and a surplus of empty beer bottles. They therefore cut off the bottle necks, filled them with cement into which pegs were fastened, and used them as insulators on pole lines.

The lower portions of the bottles were fashioned with a blow torch into drinking glasses, and the bottom into ash trays. The newspaper account did not specify the disposition of the beer bubbles.

MACHINE TOOL

(Concluded from page 20)

by scheduling the order boards of the machine-tool builders.

The above two methods will be employed and used only by the machine tool unit in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer. In this manner full utilization of the Signal Corps quota can be obtained from all machine tool builders, and unnecessary delay in delivery of proper equipment to contractors and subcontractors will be held to a minimum.

Complete specifications on all machine tools requested should accompany each application, since allocations are made not only on the basis of type and make of machine tool, but also on the basis of size. For example, exhibit A under E–1–B shows that 30 percent of the monthly machine tool builders' production of Ram type turret lathes, up to 1-inch round bar capacity, is allocated to the Signal Corps, and in sizes larger than 1-inch bar capacity 1 percent only is allocated.

Adherence to types and sizes in which the Signal Corps gets allocations is advisable, and in submitting requests for specific types of tools, it is necessary that full specifications be inclosed to take advantage of the larger quotas wherever possible.

WANTED—

from the fields of action—

HUMAN INTEREST ITEMS

About

SIGNAL CORPS OFFICERS AND MEN

Things are happening in the Signal Corps—things of interest to all Signal Corps men.

Citations are made, hard jobs are done well, unique problems are met and overcome.

Many are the stories about the soldiers who wear the crossed flags and flaming torch that their comrades-in-arms would like to hear if they were written for the record.

To keep the Office of the Chief Signal Officer informed of events that happen in the field, officers and men of the Signal Corps are invited to write up items about their unusual activities. A talent for writing is not necessary. Just make sure the letter answers the following questions: who, what, where, when, why, and how.

And let the items cover the whole range of Signal Corps experiences—whether they come from Sacramento or . . . Shangri-La (*so long as they do not reveal the location, in a foreign theater, of any unit by name.*)

Address all communications to

CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER

WASHINGTON D. C.

ATTENTION: Special Activities Branch

1. *ENLISTMENT*

If you are 18 to 45 and physically fit, you may apply for enlistment in the Signal Corps or in the Signal Corps Enlisted Reserve.

DIRECT ENLISTMENT: Experience as a licensed radio operator, a trained radio repairman, a telephone or telegraph worker, will qualify you for active duty at once. From Private's pay you can advance rapidly as you earn higher technical ratings—up to $138 a month, with board, shelter and uniforms.

ENLISTED RESERVE: If you are skilled with tools but lack qualifying experience, you may enter the Enlisted Reserve. You will be given training, with pay, provided you enroll full-time in one of the many Signal Corps schools, and ordered to active duty when you have completed your training.

COMMISSIONS: Graduate Electrical Engineers may apply for immediate commissions in the Signal Corps. And special opportunities for training and commissions are open to Juniors and Seniors in electrical engineering colleges.

"KEEP'EM FLYING!"

U.S.Army

RECRUITING AND INDUCTION SERVICE

2. *CIVILIAN TRAINING*

If you are over 16 years of age, and even though registered for Selective Service, have not received your order to report for induction, the Signal Corps offers you an outstanding opportunity.

If you have ability with tools — if you want to secure training in the vitally important field of communications—you may attend a Signal Corps school. You will be paid not less than $1020 per year for full-time training. And when you have finished your training — in nine months or less — you can advance to higher pay as your technical skill increases.

Even if you have a minor physical handicap, Signal Corps Civilian Training may give you the chance you've wanted to serve the Army of the United States.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING ENLISTMENT — Call and talk this over at the nearest Army Recruiting and Induction Station. Or write to: "The Commanding General," of the Service Command nearest you.

FOR CIVILIAN TRAINING INFORMATION — Call at any office of the U. S. Civil Service or U. S. Employment Bureau.

First Service Command.....*Boston, Mass.*
Second Service Command
Governors Island, N. Y.
Third Service Command.....*Baltimore, Md.*
Fourth Service Command.....*Atlanta, Ga.*
Fifth Service Command
Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio
Sixth Service Command.....*Chicago, Ill.*
Seventh Service Command.....*Omaha, Neb.*
Eighth Service Command
Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Ninth Service Command..*Fort Douglas, Utah*
Or write to: Procurement Branch, A.G.O.,
Washington, D. C.