

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC BRANCH
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SECRET
Equals British MOST SECRET & SECRET.

16 June 1944

From: Chief of Branch.
To: Colonel David K. E. Bruce.
Subject: Incorporated Bi-Monthly Reports for the period 1 June to 15 June, inclusive.

1. Photographic Activities During Invasion Period

The Field Photographic Branch has utilized practically its entire personnel during this period to assist the various services in the handling of motion picture film shot by photographers on the landings in France. OSS photographers, U. S. Navy photographers and Coast Guard photographers acted together under one command during this period.

All motion picture material shot by the three services has been handled by this office. This includes the developing, cataloging, mimeographing of dope sheets for each service, supervision of film through censorship in Theatre A, marking censored negative and supervising its immediate despatch to U. S. Navy Public Relations Department, Washington, D. C.

On D plus 4, it was requested by SHAEF Public Relations that this activity edit and prepare a classified secret film for the President and the Prime Minister using best available invasion material from all Allied sources. This project was completed in the record-breaking time of seventy-two hours with commentary, and was turned over to SHAEF. Commendations are being written thanking this office for this work. As Chief of the Branch, I wish to especially commend the following personnel who worked on this project: 1st Lieut. Herbert I. Leeds, the Film Editor; Mr. George J. Gercke, ~~Writer of Commentary~~; Flying Officer Michael Del Campo; Sp(P)2c Raymond J. Flynn, USNR, Narrator; Lieut. (jg) Robert M. Braggins, Jr., USNR; and Sp(P)1c Charles L. Cooper, USNR--all of them worked continually to make this project possible. Denham Laboratories, under the supervision of Mr. Barker, was highly cooperative in this regard, and this mission is commending them for their great cooperation. This film has already elicited a great deal of favorable comment in this theater.

According to an agreement with SHAEF, our photographers and auxiliary personnel are committed to this photographic activity until D plus 60.

At the present writing, ten combat photographers are in the field, as is also Commander John Ford.

Two weeks previous to D Day, Lieut. Marcus E. Armistead, USNR, supervised the installation and adaption of fifty fixed-focus bomb-spotting Eyemo cameras to be used on various types of assault craft. To date, we have received footage from approximately eight cameras and the results were well justified.

It is anticipated that the Commander, Naval Forces in Europe, will ask this organization to prepare a comprehensive film depicting the U. S. Navy's activities in this operation.

2. Coastal Command
Coastal Command is in its final stages; recording on a rough cutting print for guide purposes only will be started on 18 June. Shortly thereafter, it is anticipated that Captain Sherman will depart for the U. S. for final editing.
3. Cairo Film Project
Major John Vassos arrived from Cairo, and after due deliberations and discussions with Commander Armour and Mr. Gercke, it was decided to send Major Vassos with all film and script material to Washington for completion. This is due to the fact that inadequate facilities are available in London to complete this project.
4. Production L-26.
Production L-26 on the identification of German uniforms, weapons and tactics is in its final stages. ChSp(P) John S. Barnett and Sp(P)2c Raymond J. Flynn are assigned to this project.
5. Production L-31
Highly-classified film for the SI Branch is in its final research and editing stages.
6. Photographs at Areas
Sp(P)1c Robert H. Pates, USNR, has made several trips to areas and has made some one hundred fifty still pictures, as requested by those in charge.
7. Fixed Camera Installation
ChSp(P) Ralph E. Densmore, USNR and Sp(P)2c Louis C. Beinert, USNR, have arrived and are working with Lieut. Ben Wetzler on the fixed-camera installation job.
8. Still Laboratory
The Still Laboratory is working to capacity during this period.
9. OSS Documentary Film
Recently, Commander Armour circulated a memorandum stating that a documentary classified picture would be made of OSS activities in this mission. Mr. George J. Gercke is now engaged in research for this venture.
10. Projection Room
The Projection Room is in constant use--especially in the showing of invasion pictures for staff study.
11. New Arrivals
Arrivals in this theater during the past two weeks' period include ChSp(P) Ralph E. Densmore, USNR and Sp(P)2c Louis C. Beinert, USNR, for temporary duty.

J. A. Spencer
P. A. SPENCER,
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