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The Story of The Fourth.

Book 1.

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THE STORY OF THE FOURTH

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An informal history of the 4th Combat Camera Unit,
Army Air Forces.

4th Combat Camera Unit AAF

A P O 696

U.S. Army

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Chapter 1.

On 16 August 1943, under authority of Immediate Action Letter A G O 320.2 W D dated 4 February 1943, six officers and 23 enlisted men were transferred from First Motion Picture Unit, A A F, to 4th Combat Camera Unit, A A F -- and "The Fourth" was definitely on its way to becoming an overseas combat camera unit.

Earlier, the officers and men who formed the 4th C C U as of that date, as well as those who made up the 3rd C C U, had been in combat training since early in the year. Usually at their own request, some of the officers and men assigned to First Motion Picture Unit had chosen, or been chosen for, combat training, and units had already been drawn from this training pool and dispatched to overseas theaters. It was, however, not until 16 August that the 4th C C U, toughened by months of training and as cocky as only a fledgling unit can be, was pushed from the parental nest.

In retrospect, many of the achievements, failures, growing pains and heroic deeds might have been told from the complexion of the unit at this stage.

Predominantly, officers and men of The Fourth were motion picture and still photographers of many types of civilian experience; their average age was 26, higher than that for the war-time Army at large; their scholastic training averaged one year of college or university, also well above the norm; their Army G O T grades averaged well above the mean.

Eleven of the 29 officers and men were married; only three were parents. They were drawn from down-East Yankeedom to the Northwest; from Canada to the deep South; from Iowa to the sound stages of Hollywood; from Manchester, Conn. to Houston, Texas.

Men trained as technicians, more cosmopolitan as individuals and as a unit, with better educational advantages, and each electing combat service of his own volition -- these principal characteristics distinguished the men and officers who composed the original 4th Combat Camera Unit from Army inductees and enlistees as a whole. Additions and replacements through the ensuing months did not alter the general complexion of the unit.

Capt. William H. Clothier, commanding officer, had been returned from one tour of combat camera activity to the United States for the purpose of forming another unit. The officers and men he chose had been in training in the combat pool for varying periods dating back as far as January, 1943. Immediately upon assignment to combat training, the men had begun their preparations at Camp Letz, formerly a Boy Scout camp perched on the precipitous rim of Laurel Canyon, near Hollywood. Immediately, and frequently, they reminded all and sundry, "We're Combat," as contradistinct from the studio and administrative duties of the enlisted men of First Motion Picture Unit proper.

As the paratroopers had their boots, the men of "Combat" had their distinguishing characteristics: belt-worn sheath knives ("To cut shroud lines in emergency, to rip clothes off to treat a wound, you know" -- generally used actually to open cans of C rations); the tin hats, fatigues and leggings that contrasted markedly with the Class A olive drabs and sun-tans of "the studio men;" the barging into chow lines with the blatant explanation: "We're Combat;" the roisterous horseplay that marked them as men of action and (projected, but nevertheless quite assured) great deeds.

Living at Camp Letz under field conditions five days a week, with noisy weekends "in town," had done many things. It had introduced the men to group living and to working as a team; it had conditioned them physically; it had given them a degree of proficiency in Infantry Drill; it had familiarized them with the M-1 carbine and the automatic pistol; it had given them additional theoretical and practical training in the photographic equipment they were to use; it had given them an unbounded confidence in themselves and the 4th C C U, and a tremendous desire to get on with the job.

Such was the 4th C C U on 16 August 1943 when, its pin-feather days over, it was ready to try its wings on its own.

Roster as of 16 August 1943.

Capt. William H. Clothier	0-483029
1st Lt. Philip W. Browning	0-924578
1st Lt. Robert S. Mack	0-923084

1st Lt. John W. Steger	0-921846
1st Lt. William A. Vendetta	0-924532
2nd Lt. Jack T. Hynes	0-378022
T/Sgt. Edward NMI Dusi	13009021
S/Sgt. Tom D. Mallison Jr.	18024424
Sgt. Lane B. Kemper	37034077
Sgt. James H. Modesitt	15112920
Sgt. Ralph NMI Lopatin	13029434
Cpl. Gilbert G. Topjian	31070014
Cpl. Robert A. Wolber	32042313
Pfc. Elmer H. Merkel	19138607
Pfc. Byron K. Allen	17071355
Pfc. Paul J. Herzog Jr.	11115293
Pfc. Charles E. Rode	36267928
Pfc. Gordon A. Davolt	37437895
Pfc. Fred NMI Herdan	39267928
Pfc. Sherman J. Snider	15376966
Pfc. Louis F. Schadlich Jr.	11102830
Pfc. Carl W. Voelker	13154031
Pfc. Emil R. Morris Jr.	37496459
Pfc. Paige J. Nelson	35290665
Pfc. Elwood J. Peight	36267693
Pfc. Henry S. Rapacz	16143404
Pfc. Pasquale A. Mirabella	6909403
Pfc. Arthur J. Mainzer	16147156
Pfc. John NMI Killorin	32318132

Chapter 2.

Hitherto, the personnel of The Fourth had been trainees in a general combat pool; now, they were members of a specific unit. They had taken orders from and had been responsible to the staff of training officers generally; now, they were responsible only to a staff of unit officers of their own and to their own compact unit.

The spirit of the men, as individuals, had been high in training; now that it had more point and purpose, it was remarkable. Intense rivalry in every matter flamed constantly between The Fourth and the 3rd C C U, which jelled into a unit simultaneously. Each man of The Fourth was ready, at any time on any issue, to defend The Fourth against any intimation that it failed in any respect to be the best camera unit anywhere.

Capt. Clothier set up his personnel along the lines of a self-contained unit. Lt. Mack was designated deputy commanding officer; Lt. Hynes became adjutant; Lts. Browning, Steger and Vendetta had charge of various phases of training; Pfc. Merkel was acting first sergeant.

The Fourth had been moved to the buildings and grounds of the former Pacific Military Academy, on a slight rise overlooking Culver City, and with F M P U about a mile away. The white stucco buildings and graveled grounds were to be the home of The Fourth until, a few weeks later, the movement overseas began.

The problems confronting the staff of officers were not easy ones. It was guessed -- quite accurately, as events later proved -- that the allowable time was short. It was not known to which theater the unit might be sent, and geographic and climatic variations make great differences in photographic work. The men could make good photographs and motion pictures in the ideal California light, but how about the glaring white of the South Pacific, the yellowish haze of North Ireland, the blizzards of the Aleutians, the fickle sun of France? How could the unit's fitness to meet any conditions be determined with ~~sureness~~ sureness?

The men had been toughened up physically, but were they tough enough? They were familiar with the care and handling of their firearms, but could they shoot? They were generally healthy, but they had not had all the necessary inoculations or booster shots. They knew their camera equipment, but could they go out on their own under field conditions and bring back adequate pictorial records? They looked good on the ground, but could they function at 30,000 feet, or at half that without oxygen? They had fine spirit, but where were the weak spots that needed chinking up? They were equipped for practice work in the training area, but what would they need upon arrival in a theater of operations? Which officers could work best with which men, and which men were best fitted for non-commissioned officers?

Myriad seemingly minor problems ~~arose~~, and loomed large in the light of the task ahead: the unit certainly faced an overseas voyage -- could the men swim? They fared well in a

timber cottage -- could they take care of themselves with only the equipment and food they could carry?

Capt. Clothier and his staff, working under the supervision of Major Sanford E. Greenwald's Combat Training Section and with the officers assigned to various phases of training, arrived at a general schedule of procedure which was supplemented and modified as new problems arose.

Capt. Clothier had one outstanding determination: so to train the men that they might, first of all, take care of themselves: a dead cameraman could do nothing toward the war effort, he reasoned, and he consequently emphasized and frequently supervised in person those portions of the training schedule that tended in that direction.

Early among the problems to be attacked was that of personnel. Pfc. Merkel, as acting first sergeant, had earned the loyalty, respect and personal admiration of every man in the unit; his promotion to staff sergeant (the grade permitted for administrative N C O under the T/O) was a step welcomed by the unit as a whole.

Pfc. Schadlich and Pfc. Voelker, who had been assigned to the demanding and essential duties of supply men and were soon to be promoted to corporal, were continued in their huge task of procuring, listing, transporting and packing the unit and individual equipment necessary for such an organization bound for a foreign theater.

Second Lt. Marvin L. Gunter, O-859797, was assigned as a photographic officer, and Pfc. William E. Kelley, 39273652, and Pfc. Ira O. Welborn, 34349746, were assigned and joined.

Meanwhile, answers to some of the problems of the final domestic training stages were being reached, and a rigorous program was in effect. Capt. Clothier's insistence that every man be able to take care of himself at all times was reflected in several phases of the schedule. Unremitting simulated fire with carbines looked toward qualifying rounds on the range; first aid, resuscitation and rescue were learned by actual practice; former non-swimmers passed their 10- and 20-minute pool checks and, later, the 45-minute swimming tests in the ocean; woodcraft and the use of knots were taught; the men hiked to overnight bivouac areas and pitched camp in creditable time.

The former portrait photographers and newsreel men, store managers and salesmen, newspapermen and students were learning to take care of themselves as soldiers.

Infantry drill continued, along with map-reading, rough-and-tumble athletic games and, always, the continuous attention to camera operation, maintenance and repair, proper captioning of material to make it usable, camera techniques and sound in motion pictures.

Close checks were made of immunization records, and a program to bring all "shots" up to date was put under way. The "64" examinations were begun, along with pressure chamber tests, correction of dental deficiencies and spectacles for those who needed them.

Aerial photographic missions were carried out over ocean, desert, mountains and plains; motion picture "stories" were originated and photographed by the men, with critical

analysis of the work before the entire unit; practice coverage was made of armed forces and equipment on maneuvers; ground-to-air and air-to-air photography of aircraft was studied by actual practice.

The Fourth was ready for its final stages of training. The heterogenous group of individuals, originally bound only by a common proficiency or interest in various phases of photography, was becoming a closely-knit, physically proven, efficient team of technicians who were also soldiers.

At the end of August, with the organization at least temporarily shaken down into a pattern for its permanent form, the roster was as follows, with duties as of that date indicated:

Capt. William H. Clothier, commanding.

1st Lt. Robert S. Mack, deputy commanding officer.

1st Lt. Philip W. Browning, photographic officer.

1st Lt. John W. Steger, photographic officer.

1st Lt. William A. Vendetta, photographic officer.

2nd Lt. Jack T. Hynes, adjutant.

1st Lt. Marvin L. Gunter, photographic officer.

T/Sgt. Edward NMI Dusi, cameraman.

S/Sgt. Tom D. Mallison Jr., cameraman,

S/Sgt. Elmer H. Merkel, administrative N C O.

Sgt. Lane B. Kemper, photographer.

Sgt. Ralph NMI Lopatin, cameraman.

Sgt. James H. Modesitt, cameraman.

Cpl. Gilbert G. Topjian, cameraman.

Cpl. Robert A. Wolber, cameraman.

Pfc. Byron K. Allen, photographer.
Pfc. Gordon A. Davolt, cameraman.
Pfc. Fred NMI Herdan, cameraman.
Pfc. Paul J. Herzog Jr., sound technician.
Pfc. William E. Kelley, photo-electrician.
Pfc. John NMI Killorin, cameraman.
Pfc. Arthur J. Mainzer, transportation.
Pfc. Pasquale A. Mirabella, cameraman.
Pfc. Emil R. Morris, cameraman.
Pfc. Paige J. Nelson, cameraman.
Pfc. Elwood J. Peight, cameraman.
Pfc. Henry S. Rapacz, cameraman.
Pfc. Charles E. Rode, photographer.
Pfc. Louis F. Schadlich Jr., supply.
Pfc. Sherman J. Snider, cameraman.
Pfc. Carl W. Voelker, supply.
Pfc. Ira O. Welborn, writer.

Chapter 3.

With many of the initial problems resolved by 1 September 1943, there remained three that were paramount:

- 1)- Equipping the unit;
- 2)- Organization of personnel for overseas movement and duty;
- 3)- Final qualification of personnel.

Equipment of personnel presented no problems of moment in a unit so small; each man was equipped as to clothing and weapons (M-1 carbines, pistols and sub-machine guns) and this equipment was maintained from early September on.

Equipping the unit, however, was a major task. It was necessary to determine, of the great variety of cameras, lenses and other accessories available, just which ones and in what proportions would meet immediate overseas requirements. Emergency processing materials, an initial supply of film, power packs and other batteries, camera maintenance and repair material -- selection of these items and packing the delicate instruments easily susceptible to damage required accurate pre-judgment of conditions to be met, and excellent workmanship in handling them.

The selections were so judiciously made that, except for a threatened film shortage three months later and inconsequential overages in a few items, the unit equipment proved entirely successful. The workmanship was such that not one camera was damaged in transit.

Capt. Clothier and Lt. Mack, with continuous staff consultations, made the selections of equipment to be used. Second Lt. Robert J. Fleck, O-866266, who had joined the unit 15 September 1943 after graduation from the Yale Photographic School, and Cpls. Schadlich and Voelker were in charge of the physical procurement and packaging for overseas shipment of all unit camera equipment, as well as of office equipment, records and Quartermaster supplies.

Random excerpts from the equipment list will give some idea of the amount of material necessary for the initial operation (before additional supplies could be counted upon in a foreign theater) of such a camera unit:

15 fliers' kit bags; 25 B-4 flying bags; 10 film changing bags; 5 hi-hat camera bases; 17 storage batteries; 2 test boxes for Mitchell camera; 1 Mitchell Sound camera; 2 A-1-A cameras and lenses; 2 71-Q cameras and lenses; 3 A-3 cameras and lenses; 4 A-4-A cameras and lenses; 2 A-5 Cineflex cameras and lenses; 1 Cinekodak camera and lenses; miscellaneous sets of optical filters; 7 141-A motion picture cameras and lenses; 1 Auricon Master recorder (four cases were required for this item alone); 4 B-1 cameras and lenses; 2 C-3 still cameras; 2 K-20 still cameras; 2 gasoline generators for electric power; sets of reflectors, lamps, lenses, repair kits, and all of the thousands upon thousands of feet of motion picture film and cases of still film.

In addition to camera equipment, of course, were sets of individual flying equipment for 15 men, and Quartermaster unit supplies comparable to those of other overseas units of similar strength.

In spite of intensified training schedules, which necessitated night work several nights each week, the difficult task of procuring, transporting, cataloging and crating for shipment the myriad supply items was effectively achieved. Part of the success in this matter was due to the increasing unit spirit of The Fourth, officers and men voluntarily working far into the night under the light of portable motion picture lamps in the assembly grounds.

Final qualification of unit officers and men was coincidental with final shaping-up of personnel for overseas movement. The unit was over strength as to E M, and a few of the men in the unit had not -- by virtue of lacking technical skills and through no fault of their own -- come up to the standard of the unit as a whole.

A second problem was that several officers and E M were to travel by air and others by sea, and for that reason, certain pro tem transfers were necessary. The changes in personnel during this period were:

Pvt. Samuel J. Atwood, 33352473, assigned and joined;
1st Lt. John L. Smith, O-560348, assigned and joined;
Pfc. Fred NMI Herdan, transferred to F M P U;
Pfc. Charles E. Rode, transferred to F M P U;
2nd Lt. Paul NMI Marx, O- , assigned and joined;
1st Lt. William A. Vendetta, transferred to 2nd C C U;
Sgt. James V. King, 19160007, assigned and joined;
Pfc. Emil R. Morris, transferred to F M P U;
Pfc. Elwood J. Peight, transferred to F M P U;
1st Lt. John W. Steger, transferred to 3rd C C U;

1st Lt. John W. Smith, transferred to 3rd C O U;
2nd Lt. Richard K. Kauffman Jr., O-924324, assigned
and joined;

1st Lt. Luigi de Angelis, O-922732, assigned and joined.
Pfc's Davolt, Herzog, Kelley, Killorin, Mainzer and
Mirabella promoted to corporal;

Cpl's Topjian and Wolber promoted to sergeant;
Sgt's King, Kemper, Lopatin and Modesitt promoted to
staff sergeant;

S/Sgt. Mallison promoted to technical sergeant;
Capt. Clothier, Lts. de Angelis, Kaufman and Mack, and
Sgt's Kelley and King on D S to F M P U.

These changes left The Fourth in final shape for
overseas movement. The roster then included four officers and
21 E M for overseas movement by water; four officers and two
E M for overseas travel by air. The final roster was as
follows:

Capt. William H. Clothier, commanding.

1st Lt. Robert S. Mack.

1st Lt. Philip W. Browning.

1st Lt. Luigi de Angelis.

2nd Lt. Robert J. Fleck.

2nd Lt. Marvin L. Gunter.

2nd Lt. Jack T. Hynes.

2nd Lt. Richard K. Kauffman Jr.

T/Sgt. Edward NMI Dusi.

T/Sgt. Tom D. Mallison Jr.

S/Sgt. Lane B. Kemper.

S/Sgt. James V. King.

S/Sgt. Elmer H. Markel.

S/Sgt. James H. Modesitt.

Sgt. William E. Kelley.

Sgt. Louis F. Schadlich.

Sgt. Gilbert G. Topjian.

Sgt. Carl W. Voelker.

Sgt. Robert A. Wolber.

Cpl. Gordon A. Davolt.

Cpl. Paul J. Herzog Jr.

Cpl. Jack NMI Killorin.

Cpl. Arthur J. Mainzer.

Cpl. Pasquale A. Mirabella.

Pfc. Samuel J. Atwood.

Pfc. Byron K. Allen.

Pfc. Paige J. Nelson.

Pfc. Henry S. Rapacz.

Pfc. Sherman J. Snider.

Pfc. Ira O. Welborn.

Meanwhile, the final stages of qualification of officers and men had one on. Pursuing his policy of assuring that every member could take care of himself, Capt. Clothier emphasized training with the carbine. Hiking with field equipment to Lopez Canyon, about seven miles away, the unit pitched shelter-halves within six minutes (a test set by the C O to prove adeptness in that particular) and, after an over-night bivouac, was ready to shoot the qualifying rounds.

Of 25 rifles on the range, three qualified as expert riflemen, five as sharpshooters, 14 as marksmen and three failed to qualify. The average score was above that required to qualify for marksman, a creditable average for any organization.

Sgts. Kelley and Kemper had been given special schooling in electricity at F M P U. Cpl. Herzog had attended school there in sound photography; Pfc. Atwood had made intensive study of motion picture cutting and editing; Pfc. Welborn had studied caption writing with Capt. Ray Fernstrom and Sgt. John Evans, both returned from combat camera service in Africa.

The entire unit, working incessantly at making pictures and studying technique, learning equipment and its maintenance and repair, toughening muscles still further, was in peak form.

An inspection, one of a series extending back a week, was called on 22 October 1943. Capt. Clothier addressed the unit:

"The unit is restricted to barracks until further notice. No long distance telephone calls will be made; no letters will be written. Final packing of equipment will be completed at once."

And on 24 October 1943, the 4th C C U entrained at Los Angeles for an unknown destination.

The Fourth was on its way.

Chapter 4.

One facet of The Fourth which has not been touched upon, and one seldom considered in assaying a military unit, characterized the unit from the outset and has stood it in good stead since.

That was an ebullience that manifested itself as unflinching as did the spirit of working when there was a job to do: The Fourth could and did work like hell when work was indicated -- and it played like an oversize edition of The Marx Brothers. As it was a tightly-knit, self-contained unit in regard to work, it also provided its own fun.

There were a number of reasons for this: the officers, having in their command a group of individualists each of whom was a skilled technician in his own right, and recognizing the need for welding those men together in every way possible, encouraged rather than frowned upon a unit spirit of fun; the men, in turn, were careful that their levity did not infringe upon effective work or logical discipline. Other reasons lay in the personalities of the men.

There were the "revival meetings," for instance, at which the talent for horseplay intermittently manifested itself. Jim Modesitt -- tall, keen-featured West Virginian -- had all the gab and demeanor of an old-time "pitch man." On some whim, Modesitt went into his act, and a caricature of a down-South revivalist happened to be his metier. He exhorted the men lolling on their bunks to "be saved," to eschew sin in all its forms, to look toward the nobler life -- and some one suggested a poker game.

"Sweeten the pot right here, brother;" sweeten the pot!" Modesitt declaimed, pointing to the floor with a Billy Sunday flourish. Some one threw down a coin, and Ralph Lopatin, squinchy-eyed, lugubrious, fun-loving Jewish boy, began to see some merits in the thing.

"Hallelujah!" Lopatin shouted, and Modesitt's instant response was: "Purrrrr-raise de Lawd!"

From then on, any occasion called for a "revival meeting." A visiting non-com would walk into the barracks, and a revival meeting would be called instanter to "save his soul" -- of course, with the non-com "sweetening the pot" handsomely before he got assurance of Salvation and was thus released from the wacky hazing. The rallying call of The Fourth was, for months: "Hallelujah! Purrrrr-raise de Lawd!" often to the consternation of the uninitiated.

Never vicious, the fun was sometimes effectively pointed. The Fourth messed at F M P U with "the studio men." Always exuberant, members of The Fourth were called down by an exacting mess sergeant at one meal for being noisy. Inevitably, the hush was broken by "Hallelujah!" coming from behind the irate sergeant and, when he whirled around to see who had been so brash, a resounding "Purrrrr-raise de Lawd!" came from the other direction. Talking, except for absolute necessity, was immediately banned.

The Fourth didn't have to conspire: it worked and played so closely together that no conference was necessary. ~~At the~~ At the next meal, the mess sergeant -- expecting some mutinous demonstration from the mercurial Fourth, but not

knowing just what to expect -- saw an odd thing: The Fourth, all with hats off, silent as mummies, stood in an orderly line to be served. That had never happened before. There was no buffoonery, no talking.

The sergeant looked on uneasily. The Fourth walked in. As each man was served by the five K P food-handlers, he bowed slightly and said with apparent sincerity: "Oh, thank you, so much!"

The K Ps, expecting the usual raucous comments and side-play among the men of The Fourth, were entirely demoralized and the heavy mess line was jammed up. On into the mess room, and The Fourth filed to the farthest tables in the rear. There was no clatter, no talking, only unbending decorum to the n th degree. They ate silently. The "studio" men filling the rest of the mess hall were astounded; the entire atmosphere was unreal, something was distinctly out of kilter. Just by unanimously behaving, The Fourth had thrown the entire routine off balance. The studio men lingered at their eating and the K Ps looked on through the doors agog; the mess room was soon jammed with men waiting to eat and finding no places to sit.

As each man of The Fourth finished his meal, he sat at ease without a word, not even looking around. Then, as one man, the unit rose and filed from the mess hall with never a word, mummies complete.

The mess sergeant, sweating out what he feared might happen, was thrown entirely off base and smooth operation of his mess hall was utterly demoralized. Word came, unofficially but directly, to the men of The Fourth that

there would be no further restrictions on mess hall conversation and laughter: "Just don't get out of bounds, fellows."

The Fourth, even in horseplay, learned teamwork.

The spirit of play paralleled work in many cases. The men eagerly sought work with their cameras; they had to become swimmers; Sunday afternoons were generally free. So "missions" were set up to Long Beach, Santa Monica, Venice, Ocean Park. Camera practice, preparedness and fun were combined, effectively.

Lopez Canyon, site of the rifle range, was a strip of blistering sand and scrofulous sage where the targets wavered and danced in the shimmering heat waves. The airless pits were hell-holes. But Lopez Canyon "can't do that to The Fourth!"

Trucks were hired, kegs of beer bought, food assembled, and officers and men of The Fourth -- with wives and girl-friends -- conquered Lopez Canyon on a hayride after the sun had retired and the huge eucalyptus trees bordering the range made a setting for fun, food and photographs.

When other G Is in the area attended, singly or in pairs, the servicemen's performances of "The Drunkard" or other shows, The Fourth attended as a body, because that was the way The Fourth wanted its fun.

Raillery was constant, but generally kind. Paige Nelson's tall tales of beautiful ladies (they always drove "a 1942 Cadillac," never a Buick or LaSalle) who insisted on his company were mercilessly lampooned for the benefit

of all, and Nelson was ~~and~~ delighted as any other listener.

Lopatin, driving a 6 x 6 with a full load of men who could not see into the cab, would suddenly appear clinging on the side of the truck, asking: "How's my driving, Men?" with the truck bowling along as usual and apparently driverless. He and Voelker, who rode with him, had perfected a switch of drivers.

A leading spirit of the unit's fun was Elmer Merkel, staff sergeant serving as sergeant major. Formerly a chain store manager, Merkel followed the "customer is always right" policy as far as possible: he felt the first duty of a first sergeant was to represent the enlisted men in the unit. Fun-loving himself, he assisted in every hilarious enterprise the men wanted, short of interfering with the efficiency of the unit.

This phase of The Fourth is noted, not because such a phase was singular among squadrons or companies, but because -- in the case of The Fourth -- its importance in welding the unit together, in relieving nerve strain during training and later in combat, and in communizing highly individual temperaments was transcendent.

Because of T/O limitations, The Fourth found privates first class working at times at the same tasks as first lieutenants; it found tech sergeants subordinate in some phases of duty to corporals. Under these circumstances, intimate teamwork was essential if the unit were to succeed; anything less than genuine camaraderie would have been fatal,

and it is likely that no medium other than unit fun could have been so effective to this end.

It was this spirit that made Modesitt, on D-3, yell to Lieut. Madsen, who was filming a Normandy battle scene with disregard for his own safety:

"Get your goddam crazy head down SIR!"

And that made both laugh, some of the strain eased off and they did better work under conditions that were, to say the least, difficult.

It was this background of finding mutual fun even in difficult spots that made Killorin take his driver's eyes off the roadway, turn to Welborn and laugh uproariously as they were shelled on the Carentan bridge -- it was the fifth such experience for Killorin and the fourth for Welborn, and the "race" between the two had become a matter of a unit fun.

But the important part: the men of The Fourth had learned in that way to defeat the jitters.

When the psychological analysts of World War II study the vast problem of fatigue and strain, they might well consider the preventive that grew up in The Fourth.

Chapter 5.

This, in brief, was the background that the members of The Fourth looked back upon as the Southern Pacific pulled out of Los Angeles and another distinct phase of the unit's history began.

Reactions of the men on this occasion were like those of men in thousands of similar troop movements with two possible exceptions:

1)-- Every individual was enthusiastically glad to be "on the way to the job;"

2)-- Every individual was busy at something; none sat in self-contained silence: the unit's exuberant robustness precluded that.

Lt. Hynes, as adjutant, was officer in charge. Lts. Browning, Fleck and Gunter assisted him. The 21 E M aboard included all of those on the roster on Pages 14 and 15 except Sgts. King and Kelley, who had remained to make the overseas trip by air with Capt. Clothier and Lts. Mack, Kauffman and de Angelis.

In the three and a half days required to reach the Atlantic Seaboard staging area, the officers and men of The Fourth came to know each other even more intimately, and the oft-repeated U.S. Army miracle of cementing men of widely divergent ages, personalities and backgrounds was still more strikingly exemplified.

It might be well to include thumb-nail sketches of the men:

DUSI -- 25, Pennsylvanian, Italian descent, stocky stature, lover of swing music, enlisted while a student, attended Stewart Technical School (photography), unmarried.

MALLISON -- 24, Texan, small and cocky, photographer and photo-engraver, expert rifleman, enlisted in 1941, attended photo school at Stewart Technical School, unmarried.

KEMPER -- Known as "Old Rough It," 29, semi-bald, stocky, genial moon-like face, Nebraskan, nine years' experience as public relations photographer with Union Pacific R R.

LOPATIN -- 22, New Yorker, Jewish, unmarried, chow-hound, clever clown, intensely enthusiastic about his work, formerly general clerk at Frankfort (Pa.) Arsenal.

MERKEL -- 27, North Dakota-born but an enthusiastic Californian; tow-headed, laughing, German descent, chain store manager for four years, unanimous choice of E M as "world's best first sergeant," marksman, unmarried, clear-thinking and fearless, attended Lowry Field photo school.

MODESITT -- 21, West Virginian, enlisted in 1942 while sales clerk for a utility firm; attended Lowry Field photo school, marksman, irrepressible funster and exhibitionist, known as "The Deacon."

SCHADLICH -- 20, Connecticut, enlisted while an apprentice machinist at Pratt & Whitney, amateur photo hobbyist, attended Lowry Field photo school, marksman, unmarried, competent pianist, intensely interested in everything that lives, inveterate prankster with underlying humor.

TOPJIAN -- 26, Armenian descent, Massachusetts, unmarried, retiring, meticulous in speech and personal habits, free lance photographer with painting as a hobby, attended Lowry Field photo school, marksman.

VOELKER -- 20, Pennsylvanian, high school and year of night school studying heat treatment of metals, worked as heat treater, unmarried, rugged build, expert rifleman, attended Lowry Field photo school.

WOLBER -- 26, native of Utica, N.Y., short of stature, always amiable, former aviation cadet, three years' experience as a photographer, married, no children, attended Lowry Field photo school, marksman,

DAVOLT -- 35, Missourian and long-time resident of Iowa, tall, given to exaggerating his hillbilly bearing and discourse, insistent upon his (and other Ems') rights as a soldier, proficient photographer, graduate of American School of Photography and Lowry Field photo school, unexcelled store of ribald ditties, married, one daughter, marksman.

HERZOG -- 23, Rhode Island, Buddha-like physique and an unconquerable flair for bad puns and imitations in parody of almost anything, graduate of Lowry Field photo school, former multiple spindle press operator, married.

KILLORIN -- 27, Brooklyn Irishman with the best of Eire's wit and capacity for fun, high school football player, best physical specimen in unit, graduate Lowry Field photo school, ink handler as civilian, expert rifleman, married.

MAINZER -- 20, Canadian-born and reared in Chicago, vocational high school education, enlisted while stock clerk at large mail order house, ready smile that advertises a genial nature, great love for "going places and seeing things," unmarried.

MIRABELLA -- 24, Rochester, N.Y., enlisted for aviation cadet training early in 1942 while doing photo work in Cincinnati, attended March of Time photo school, married, no children, avid card-player.

ATWOOD -- 35, native of Massachusetts and resident of Pennsylvania, worked as contact man, precise and professorial in manner, deliberate in all his actions, graduate of Lowry Field and March of Time photo schools.

ALLEN -- 20, native and lifelong resident of Iowa, youngest member of unit, civilian flier with own plane, motion picture projectionist, dead ringer for Lindbergh in his early days, intensely alive, inventive, fun-loving, no idea of what "fear" is, unmarried.

NELSON -- 25, native of West Virginia and resident of Ohio, former aviation cadet, highly expert in jitterbug school of dancing, teller of tall tales not intended to be believed, keen to find a laugh in any situation, 100 per cent friendship from all the men, married.

RAPACZ -- 23, husky, Chicago-born Pole, gear tooth grinder after graduation from high school, prolific letter writer and inveterate philatelist, marksman, a bear for

work and never one to complain, intelligent, highly sensitive and inclined to moodiness, unmarried.

SNIDER -- 21, West Virginian who enlisted while employed by a power firm, vigorous and brawny, indefatigable worker, lover of a tussle or discomfiture of any of his special buddies, level-headed, unfailingly liked, unmarried.

WELBORN -- 46, Mississippian, Tank Corps sergeant in World War I, newspaper executive and U.S. Forest Service public relations officer, acid-tongued and of unstable temper, married.

These were the varied personalities that, through the alchemy of war, had been welded into one entity: the 4th Combat Camera Unit.

Chapter 6.

Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, was to The Fourth a vast sea-level expanse coated with khaki-colored buildings and mud, cloaked in incessant rain and people~~d~~ exclusively with officers and noncoms whose mission in life was to dream up unpleasant, delaying things for a newly arrived unit to do.

In the impatience of men -- and officers -- repacking of scores of T A T cases seemed like nothing short of machiavellian machinations to delay this one camera unit. When Ordnance inspected weapons and condemned one carbine "because it won't shoot" (the same carbine had shot the highest score in the unit on a practice round -- 179 x 200 -- and had won a sharpshooter's and a marksman's rating for record) it was certain that malign influences were at work. And when makeshift Unit H Q was moved peremptorily, and 24-hour watch demanded, and comfortable old shoes were taken in and replaced by stiff, unyielding new ones, it seemed conclusive that The Fourth was not among friends.

But, as interminable days dragged, The Fourth was checked and double-checked: physical and dental examinations, inoculations, personal equipment and clothing, insurance, unit records, crated equipment and packing lists, abandonment procedure. Drill and athletics kept the men toughened up; bountiful food kept them in peak form.

So, after six days, The Fourth entrained at Camp

Kilmer and, four hours later, staggered under bulging barrack bags up the gangplank of a freshly converted freighter, the U.S. Army Transport Frederick Lykes, loading at Pier No. 2, New York harbor.

Jammed into C hold, well below the water line, The Fourth realized that Camp Kilmer wasn't so bad after all, and that the six rain-soaked, uncomfortable days had accomplished much that was essential.

The scene at Kilmer when, in the cold, fading light, The Fourth halted its march to the railhead to stand Retreat for the last time in the United States merged into the final view of the Statue of Liberty from the jam-packed deck of a ferry -- a background scene for the throbbing of the engines that gave a sober tempo to "We'll be over, we're coming over"

Overseas service of The Fourth began at 1220 hours 5 November 1943.

UNIT-CC-4-H1

Nov. 1943 -

July 1944.

RETURN TO:

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Research Studies Institute
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Maxwell AFB, Alabama

7366 547

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UNIT-CC-4-H1

Nov 1943

JULY 1944

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HISTORY OF THE 4th COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

November 1943 thru July 1944

MICROFILMED

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HISTORY of the FOURTH COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

Second Phase --- The ETO

First Installment - November, 1943

The voyage in convoy to foreign shores was slow and uneventful, but for so many whose first ocean crossing it was, the trip was fraught with danger and spiced with high adventure. The sea was rough for most of the 15 days aboard ship, with some of our men (and they had lots of company) deathly sick in their bunks nearly the whole time. Sgt. Lopatin, for instance, only made the chow line twice in two weeks, and said that it was only the hope of dying that kept him alive. Here was the general sentiment, as expressed in doggerel by our Lt. Browning.

RYME OF THE MODERN MARINER

with apologies to Coleridge

It is an ancient malady
And it grippeth all but three;
By my scraggly beard, thou Mal-de-mer,
Why overlookst thou me?

At noon the convoy sailed upon
Its deed of deep devotion,
To risk its men and stores upon
The bosom of the ocean.

All in the hot and stuffy hold
There lie our valient men;
Their bunks rise upward to the sky,
I cannot count but ten.

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How high and low, and row on row
The line unending stretches;
The ocean bowls, the vessel rolls,
And one more victim retches.

Where in the cabins on the deck
No more than two should sleep,
The officers are shacking up
In tiers of bunks three deep.

Who thought this was a pleasure cruise?
We soon forgot the notion;
Tis nothing but a bucking ship
Upon a bucking ocean.

The transports pitch, the soldiery bitch,
The ocean heaves and tosses;
The passengers do likewise, and
The meals are total losses.

Four meals a day, two down, two up,
Are given to the fishes;
Above the howling of the wind
Is heard the crash of dishes.

The rolling of the ship is such
As earns our admiration,
But often causes us at mess
To suffer deprivation.

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Water, water everywhere
Until you try the sink;
Water, water everywhere,
But not a drop to drink.

He fareth best who loveth best
The sea and sky above,
For on an army transport, boys,
There's nothing else to love.

On 16 November we entered the quiet waters between Ireland and Scotland, spent the day sailing up the lovely Firth of Clyde, and dropped anchor off Gourock, Scotland, at 1400. We disembarked on the 17th at 0930, entrained at noon, and all day and night sped through the charming misty postcard landscapes of Scotland and England, to arrive at Marks Tey, in Essex, in the dark early morning of the 18th. Trucks awaited us to take us to our first station, No. 154, 60 miles from London. Gosfield, an airdrome just being finished for us by the British on reverse Lend-Lease, was non-operational at the time. Lt. Col. A. H. Hoffeditz, C.O., couldn't figure out why they'd send him 25 cameramen when there wasn't an airplane on the place, but he was old-army enough to know that nothing is ever as bad as it looks in the army --- or as good. We were billeted in Niessen huts, tried in vain to keep warm with the tiny Limey stoves and the two lumps of coal a month they gave us, felt very lonesome and deserted, and wondered why our good shepherds didn't come and get us.

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In the meantime, Capt. Clothier, Lts. Mack, DeAngelis and Kauffman, and Sgt. King and Opl. Kelley left New York's LaGuardia Field in a C-54 on Nov. 4, and landed at Prestwick, Scotland, the following day. They went at once to London to prepare for the important work which we believed was waiting for us as a studio production unit with the 8th Air Force. Instead they found that we were assigned to the 9th AF, which had come up from the Mediterranean Theatre and was still unannounced as being in the ETO. Being now with a tactical airforce, we would be a combat camera unit with a vengeance. Let the 3d OCU have the old production job, we would have the excitement and see the fun. The two production officers, Lt. DeAngelis and Lt. Kauffman, were transferred to the 3d OCU and we received in their place Lts. Smith and Steger from the 3d. Capt. Clothier took an office in No. 1 Cumberland Place, near Marble Arch, and took steps to find us a home when we should arrive, and the additional training we needed for the type of combat we would see.

The 4th Combat Camera Unit was assigned to the Photographic Section, 9th Air Force, under authority of letter US AAF dated 19 November 1943, subject: Assignment of Troops No. 3. Personnel of the 4th AAF OCU as of that date was:

Officers:

Capt. William H. Clothier, O-483029, Commanding Officer.

First Lt. Philip W. Browning, O-924578

First Lt. Robert S. Mack, O-923084

First Lt. John L. Smith, O-560349

First Lt. John W. Steger, O-921846
Second Lt. Robert J. Fleck, O-866266

Second Lt. Marvin L. Gunter, O-859997

Second Lt. Jack T. Hynes, O-578022

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Enlisted Men:

T/Sgt. Edward (NMI) Dusi, 13009201

T/Sgt Tom D. Mallison, Jr., 18024424

S/Sgt Lane B. Kemper, 37034077

S/Sgt James V. King, 19160007

S/Sgt Ralph (NMI) Lopatin, 13029434

S/Sgt Elmer H. Merkel, 19138607

S/Sgt James H. Modesitt, 15112920

Sgt Louis F. Schadlich, Jr., 11102830

Sgt Gilbert G. Topjian, 31070014

Sgt Carl W. Voelker, 13154021

Sgt Robert A. Wolber, 32042313

Cpl Gordon A. Davolt, 37437895

Cpl Paul J. Herzog, Jr. 11115293

Cpl William E. Kelley, 39273552

Cpl John (NMI) Killorin, 32318132

Cpl Arthur J. Mainzer, 16147156

Cpl Pasquale A. Mirabella, 6909403

Pfc Samuel J. Atwood, 33352473

Pfc Byron K. Allen, 17071355

Pfc Paige J. Nelson, 35290665

Pfc Henry S. Rapacz, 16143404

Pfc Sherman J. Snider, 15376966

Pfc Ira O. Welborn, 34349746

4th AAF CCU at month's end was stationed temporarily at AAF Sta. 154, Gosfield, Essex, under temporary command of 2Lt. Jack T. Hynes. Capt. Clothier, Lts. Mack, Smith and Steger, Sgt. King and Cpl. Kelley were on TD in London.

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The 400U transferred from Gosfield, Sta. 154, to Bomber Command Headquarters at Marks Hall, Sta. 160, just a few miles away, on the 4 December. This was the first step in a hegira during which we received our "diploma" and found our home. On 17 December the unit transferred to Headquarters Ninth Air Force, Sta. 472, at Sunninghill Park, Ascot, Berkshire County, for permanent station. In the meantime the greater part of the unit's strength, destined for active participation in aerial combat as cameramen, went to school for two weeks in North Ireland to receive necessary training in gunnery, aircraft recognition and duties as aircrew members. The following O and Em, in compliance with teletype from Hq 9AF dated 12 Dec 43, left station 160 for Toome, Antrim, N. Ireland, on 15 Dec 43.

1 Lt. Browning, Philip W.	Sgt. Topjian, Gilbert G.
1Lt. Mack, Robert S.	Sgt. Wolber, Robert A.
1Lt. Smith, John L.	Cpl : Davolt, Gordon A.
1Lt. Steger, John W.	Cpl. Kelley, Wm. E.
2Lt. Fleck, Robert J.	Cpl. Killorin, John (NMI)
2Lt. Gunter, Marvin L.	Cpl. Mainzer, Arthur J.
T/Sgt. Dusi, Edward (NMI)	Cpl. Mirabella, Pasquale A.
T/Sgt. Mallison, Tom D, Jr.	Pfc Allen, Byron K.
S/Sgt. Kemper, Lane B.	Pfc Nelson, Paige J.
S/Sgt. King, James V.	Pfc Rapacz, Henry S.
S/Sgt. Lopatin, Ralph (NMI)	Pfc Snider, Sherman J.
S/Sgt. Modesitt, James H.	Pfc Welborn, Ira O.

In addition to the above, the following men were attached for TD to receive the same instruction, per par 15, SO 335 Hq 9AF. 5 Dec. 43

T/Sgt. Love, Virgil M.	S/Sgt. Gurvitz, Oscar P.
T/Sgt. Steele, Fay W.	S/Sgt. Mayhew, Arthur E.

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Capt. Clothier, Wm. H., commanding officer, was promoted to Major effective 10 Nov 43 pp 14 WD SO 314 dtd 10 Nov 43. 1Lt. Luigi DeAngelis, O-922732, and 2Lt. Richard K. Kauffman, Jr, O-924324, were transferred to 3d Combat Camera Unit par 1 SO 308 Hq 8AF dtd 12 Nov 43, and 1Lt Smith, John L. O-560349 and 1Lt. Steger, John W. O-921846, were transferred from the 3d into the 4th on the same order. 1Lt. Leon M. Block, O-1583951, assigned and joined pp 13 SO 350 Hq 9AF dtd 16 Dec 43. Pvt. Mario Mongini 32870290 asgd & jd pas 13 SO 118 Hq Sp Trps ETOUSA dtd 4 Dec 43. 1Lt Robt. S. Mack O-923084 promoted to captain eff 20 Dec 43 pp 1 SO 354 Hq 9AF dtd 20 Dec 43. 2Lt. Jack T. Hynes O-578022 promoted to 1Lt pp 15 SO 312 WD eff 8 Nov. 43. The gunnery class returned to the organization at its new station on 27 December, and Sgts. Love, Steele, Gurvitz and Mayhew returned to their original organization.

While at Marks Hall on Dec. 10th Jerry paid us a very personal visit, dropping chandeliers and bombs as calling cards to let us know he knew we were there and ready to go against him, and on that evening lit by moonlight, shellbursts and flares, and criss-crossed by tracer bullets and searching beams which made the Ju88s squirm and dive in their glare, we had our baptism of fire. Watching the show in the open like greenhorns, we hit the dirt like veterans when those strings of bombs blasted close. We learned something of what it was about, fast. The Niessen huts and haunts where we had lived and played but a short time before were gone, and among the eleven men killed were some who had been our friends.

Our unit felt as if it were getting closer to the heart of things at last, nearer to combat and action where there would be something to take pictures of, as and when our cameras and equipment

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arrived. Sgt. Voelker, left behind at the Port of Debarkation, to keep watch over our organizational equipment and shepherd it to us, returned with his precious banded boxes on 23 December, and we put our collective toe into the starting mark and crouched for the gun.

Strength of unit at close of year, 9 Officers and 24 men.

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History of 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit, JANUARY, 1944

With the beginning of the New Year there also began a movement of detachments of our unit from headquarters into the field on TD or DS and back to headquarters which was to characterize our activities through all the rest of the war. Possibly in no other organization would so much shifting of personnel and equipment ever be necessary on such short notice. The very nature of our work required it, and we had to learn to live in a musette bag, as it were. Our attachment to Air Force HQ was, of course, necessary, in order best to cooperate with the 9th AF, to be at the source of information and to plan our operations accordingly, but in truth every man would prefer to have been in the field, with a camera. The 4th CCU and the Photo Section were lumped together under the direction of Lt. Col. John E. Felton; space was at a premium, there was not adequate accommodation of facilities for the needs of both, and even after more room was arranged there still remained the conflicting interests and requirements and activities of the still photo and motion picture units. However, under Major Clothier's aggressive leadership, the combat camera unit kept its independence and undertook an ambitious program of covering everything in the 9th Air Force that moved or flew.

First was established a detachment of cameramen with the B26 Marauders at Andrews Field, Great Sailing, Essex County, where the oldest group in the ETO, the 322nd, had been pioneering in the field of medium bombardment. Maj. Clothier, Capt. Mack, Lts. Browning and Smith, Sgts. Kemper, King, Modesitt, Topjian, and Kelley, and Cpls. Davolt, Mainzer and Mirabella started work on a story of how these big ships took it and dished it out, and several of the number made their first missions in the opening days of the new year.

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Lt. Smith and King, Kelley, Modasitt and Mainzer were left at Andrews on TD as Detachment No. 1.

From Jan. 3d to 8th a detachment composed of Maj. Clothier, Capt. Mack, Lts. Browning, Steger and Gunter, and Sgts. Kemper, Topjian, Wolber, Opls. Davolt and Mirabella, and Pfc Allen, covered the paratroopers and airborne infantry maneuvers being held around Aldermaston and Newbury. This was a full-scale practice operation of invasion and resupply, and provided a glimpse into the future as well as some first-rate picture possibilities. How well the opportunity was used can best be judged by the fact that the Weekly Digest of Combat Motion Picture Films, edited by Headquarters Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C., issued two stories from the material we sent in. These subjects were 1057 in Digest 26, Reel 3, dated March 20, 1944, titled "Paratroop Maneuvers, Somewhere in England", and Digest 28, Reel 1, dated 24 March, 1944, No. 1098, "Airborne Demonstration, England". The following letter from HQ 1st AAF Combat Film Detachment, 1 Park Ave., dated 5 April, 1944, to Commanding Officer, 400U, an Editorial and Technical Report, reads in part,

"a. Subject 1057 - British-American Paratroop Story. Cameraman not stated; 20 March, 1944. This is one case where the film exceeds the promise of the caption sheets. It is an illustration of what combat films can do with the combination of first-rate action subject and an aggressive and experienced camera crew. Particularly noteworthy are the shots of the paratroopers in the interior of the plane, waiting for the jump; the close-ups of the men leaving the plane; the long shots of the formation in flight and the whole detachment floating down; the individual landings; and the chest-camera shot of captain Lillyman's descent. The Unit is to be commended for outstandingly alert and well planned coverage."

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On 10 Jan. Lt. Marvin L. Gunter, O-859997, promoted to 1st Lt. SO 8
HQ 9AF dtd 8 Jan 44.

12 Jan Kelley Wm E 39273652 promoter cpl to sgt dtd 11 Jan.

23 Jan Lt. Leon M. Block O-1583951 releived from assignment
with 400U, assigned WP IX ASC.

23 Jan Thomas Wm. R. Pvt. 13060431 assigned and joined.

31 Jan Lt. Robert J. Fleck, o-866266 promoted to 1st Lt. par 3
SO 30 Hq 9AF dtd 30 Jan 44.

31 Jan Welborn, Ira O. promoted pfc to Cpl. par. 1 SO 30,
Hq Ninth AF dtd 30 Jan 44.

Strength of Unit at end of month, 8 officers and 25 EM.

Maj. Clothier was awarded the Air Medal on General Orders No. 20
Hq Ninth AF dated 22 Jan 1944.

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4th Combat Camera Unit History - FEBRUARY, 1944

This month was the critical and deciding one in the air and for the air over Europe, it was apparent even to us who were flying. Our bombsights moved from the illusive rocket installations to the juicier marshalling yards and the photogenic airdromes all over the continent, until, during an unprecedented spell of beautiful flying weather during the last week of February, our air forces struck at the Luftwaffe in an all-out burst of concentrated fury and blasted it off the ground and out of the air. Since there was an immediate demand for combat pictures for newsreel release as well as other outlets, a second detachment was formed to supplement Lt. Smith's group of cameramen with the B26s. Lt. Browning, with Sgts. Mallison and Topjian, Opl. Davolt and Pfc Snider, and E/Sgt. Steele from the Photo Section for still coverage, were attached on DS to the 323d Bomb Group (Medium) at Sta. 358, Earls Colne.

Quote from Field Report dated 12 Feb. by Lt. Browning. "The Detachment No. 2 arrived at Earls Colne on 9 February in a personnel carrier with belongings and unit equipment to start filming operations with the White Tail Marauders. Photo equipment consisted of one Akeley A-1-A, one Eyemo A-3, one bombspotter A-4-A minus handle, one B-1 16mm and one 141-A 16mm magazine camera. We secured a Niessen hut close to the briefing room, handy to hardstandings and runways, to use as supply room, orderly room, repair shop, and living quarters for officer and men. There were no partitions, electric or telephone connections, water or stove. We started our siege of British officialdom and to get the necessities, in the meantime, with improvised lights and makeshifts, the unit is fairly uncomfortable, working efficiently, and morale is sky-high."

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Some men of both units in the field were on every mission flown from the bomber bases. These first missions were far from easy ones for us. We didn't have proper clothing, cameras wouldn't operate under the conditions of cold or they ran down their spring motors too quickly to give full coverage on bomb strikes, and there was a chronic shortage of equipment and transportation. Major Clothier secured new flying clothing, parachutes and the new quick-release harnesses, flak suits and helmets, throat mikes and ear phones and special silk and chamois gloves. He had several bombspotters motorized and new-type finder adapted, and we carried 24-volt batteries for an independent and reliable source of power. We drew bicycles from the British to augment our transportation.

Still we suffered. Sgt. Kemper partially froze his hands while shooting from the waist window at 11,000 feet in 30 degrees below zero temperature. Many a time the film broke in the extreme cold and the product of a hazardous mission was lost. ~~almost~~ Almost all the men had at least one close brush with the heavy flak encountered over the fiercely-defended coastal region of France. Capt. "Scotty" Welbourne, from Photo Section 9AF, flying one day with a 71Q motorized magazine Eyemo, saw the hydraulic system shot out when the ship was riddled with flak, was drenched in purple hydro fluid which nearly ruined him and the camera, and nearly crashed in landing. Sgt. Modesitt was twice missed by inches by shell fragments when he just happened to move the right way; the hydraulic system was shot out, the crew was warned to jump but elected to stay with the ship tho it was being forced to land away from home, and again a crash was narrowly missed. ~~These incidents only served to whet the appetites of all for more combat.~~

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These incidents only served to whet the appetites of all for more combat. Thousands of feet of take-offs and landings, ground-to-air and air-to-air formations, flak bursting in close-up and in masses, bombs away and bomb strikes on a wide variety of targets poured into our laboratory and cutting rooms in London. The Digest 25, Reel 3, Subject 1008 - Ninth Air Force in England, says, "This, the first shipment received from the 4th Combat Camera Unit, is one of the best bombing missions coverages we have seen. Photography in almost all scenes is very good; sound in the recorded sequence is excellent. The film contains views of heavy flak, cloud effects, formations, exceptionally clear target areas and bursts, damaged B-26s in flight, fighter cover, bombs-away shots within the bomb bay, and a perfect take of a belly landing made by a crippled ship.

..... The Unit has got away to a flying start and is to be commended for this production, which is scheduled for early use in the digest and release as a separate film report.

(signed) Bertram Teitelbaum, Major A.C.

The Field Report from Detachment No.2 is typical of the high-spirited 4thCGU. Dated Feb. 26, Earls Colne, it reads,

"This was an historic week for the 4th Coocons at Earls Colne. We started raiding airdromes in Holland in between trips to France. On the 20th Feb., Sgt. Mallison, shooting through the bomb bay at the 100-pounders pouring out, saw a malfunction of the release mechanism which prevented three bombs from falling, tho partially free and possibly armed. He called the crew's attention to them and helped replace and secure the lethal cargo.

Four of the boys went to Northern Holland to knock hell out of

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the airfield at Leeuwarden, and got some beautiful target strike shots. The morale of the group jumped sky-high over the job, and they all want to see the pictures.

On the 25th we hit Venlo, Holland, on the German border, the deepest penetration of "die Festung Europa" by B-26s to date, and the first time over the Fatherland itself. Sgt. Steele crossed the border first, followed within two seconds by Lt. Browning with a movie camera. Some of the bombs were officially considered to have fallen beyond the airfield into German territory. Many of the ships fired a burst with their guns as they turned over Germany, just for luck. Sgt. Steele threw his customary brick at the enemy, as on each of his missions, and is going to start painting frogs on his jacket for each brickbat attack, he says. We flew over five countries in one day: England, Holland, Germany, Belgium and France.

All peaceful and happy at "Casa Fria". The station coal pile is still handy, and so are my boys, so we're not standing short."

The report the same week from Andrews Field by Lt. Smith reads, in part, "Nearing the I.P., the vast armada of ships formed in line preparatory to making the bombing run. Finally, the bomb bay doors opened. From the astrodome, using a wide-angle lens, I held the camera ready as I watched the flights behind us. Suddenly, single puffs of heavy black smoke magically mushroomed into sight, then drifted behind. More and more puffs blossomed into view and I saw them flash past uncomfortably close to our ship. Then I heard a "harrumph!" and knew that we had been hit, and at the same time the flak bursts became so numerous that they almost obscured the other ships from view. The air was filled with puffs of black smoke and it didn't seem possible that our ships could come through. On looking down towards the bomb bay door, I suddenly

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realized that the bombs were gone and the doors closing. Transferring the cable to the 2" lens camera, I got what I could of the strikes through the closing doors. The bombs were dropping squarely on their aiming point at the runway intersection. On the turnaway from the target, clouds of black smoke were visible pouring up from the airport and I shot some footage on it starting back for home. We encountered no further opposition, reaching the enemy coastline after 40 minutes over Dutch territory."

FLYING HIS ninth combat mission

On 29 February the ship in which Lt. Smith was ~~Flying~~, piloted by Lt. Bonnett, ran into heavy and accurate flak over the French coast near Dieppe, and when last seen was losing altitude but heading back toward England. No trace of plane or crew has ever been found, and all must be presumed lost.

Maj. Clothier, Capt. Mack, Lts. Gunter and Steger and men are nearing completion of the Airborne Infantry production for Troop Carrier Command in North England, and are undergoing the same hazardous and rugged training as the paratroopers.

1 Feb. Pvs Wm. R. Thomas and Mario Mongini promoted to Privates First Class.

Strength of Unit at end of February was 7 officers and 25 EM.

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The Unit continued its work chiefly with Troop Carrier and the medium bombers. Of the former, Capt. Mack's detachment is getting good picture coverage and human interest material for some special releases on the boys who will do the dirty work when the invasion of the continent begins.

Lt. Jack T. Hynes took charge of Detachment 1 with the B-26s in place of Lt. Smith who was lost in combat Feb. 29th, and Lt. Robert J. Fleck was detailed as Adjutant on 8 March. The bomber pictures, cut into a story by Lt. Fred Knudtsen and made available to the newsreel companies through Major Sam Greenwald, was released simultaneously with the official announcement of the presence of the Ninth Air Force in England, and was run under several names, "Ninth Air Force in England," "Double-Header Marauder Operations", and "First Marauder Story". It ran 13 minutes in its finished form, and some newsreels devoted their entire time to the one subject. The Unit received a telegram of commendation from Gen. H. H. Arnold, Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, on the excellent coverage and photography, commenting especially on the spectacular bomb strikes on the Leeuwarden and Venlo Airdromes raids on 24 and 25 Feb.

Every chairborne cameraman at headquarters and hypo-chondriac in the photo lab wants to go out and fly combat. Our supply sergeant, Sgt. Schadlich, on a 48-hour pass, went into the field and flew two missions, though he knew he might get busted for it, and nearly was. How the boys on flying status feel about it may best be judged from the report from Earls Colne for the week ending March 11.

"Once a month we leave our twin sports, flying and photography, and go to headquarters to do some work for the government, i.e., get

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paid and get our mail. After two days around headquarters, we returned to the relative peace and quiet of combat, to the roar of a hundred 2000 HP engines, to bombs and flak and machineguns, but where there is really nothing to disturb one and life is simple while it lasts.

We flew a few missions and had a couple lucky breaks, such as a single-engine flight home from the target by a Marauder which was joined and escorted by Typhoon fighters in full view of our camera. Five of us flew that day as the job promised to be a juicy one, but clouds spoiled the show, and we were all returning empty-handed until that incident occurred, proving three things; (1) you never can tell when a good picture may show itself, (2) it takes several men in different places in the formation to "cover" it, and (3) one man riding as co-pilot with Tail End Charles can see and shoot everything that happens ahead of him in the formation. This works best if (1) the pilot is a good friend of yours and lets you fly co-pilot, and (2) he asks you to "pull rank" on him so he will have an excuse to break formation and go after the pictures for you."

There was now an adequate supply of 35mm cameras and allied equipment. A new detachment was put into the field, in charge of Lt. Glen Sutliff, attached to the 416th Bomb Group (light) at STA. 170 Weathersfield, to cover activities of the A-20 Havocs. Sgt. Wolber, Pfc's Allen, and Rapacz were the motion picture cameramen in this unit. SSgt. Arthur Mayhew joined Detachment 2 for still coverage for the Photo Section.

Strength at end of month, 7 O and 25 EM.

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In March Major Sanford B. Greenwald, formerly of News of the Day, arrived in the theatre and was assigned to the photo Section, Ninth Air Force, to facilitate release for public distribution of motion pictures and stills made by this unit and the photo section.

Other Combat Camera Units send their exposed film to the Combat Film Service, New York, for processing and distribution. This results in an inevitable delay before even a written report can be received in the theatre of origin, and a longer wait before a specially requested print can be made and shipped. Major Clothier arranged with Olympic Laboratories, North Acton, London, to process our films and make duplicate negatives and prints, after which the originals are sent to New York. He installed pfc Joe Atwood in a cutting room at Olympic to file and cut stories from the fine-grain dupes. In this way we are all able to see the results of our work, and can ~~make~~ know when to make repairs to defective equipment or suggest changes in technique. We are compiling a library, and will be able to make our work available without delay to Commanding Generals, Intelligence officers, Public Relations Officers, British newsreels, and other interested organizations. We have found that the cooperation of groups in the field is infinitely better if we can show them what we are making, and the morale of our own men and the quality of their work shows marked improvement.

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History of 4th Combat Camera Unit

The Unit is rolling smoothly and in high gear, Our efforts at this time are centered mostly on newsreel type coverage, as it is believed that factual reporting can be cut best into the documentary and historical film of the war which we are producing. Reports reach us that we are supplying up to 40% of the screen time of some issues of the newsreels, and the Ninth Air Force is at last receiving publicity which it has been denied so long for reasons of security.

Maj. Clothier, Maj. Greenwald, Capt. Mack and men of Detachment 1 filmed Easter services in an old stone church at Andrews Field bomber base on March 26, which was released as Subject 1097, "Easter Somewhere in England with the Ninth Air Force." Editorial & Technical Report from 1st AAF Combat Film Detachment 12 April: "Picture is very good and coverage well handled."

Subject 1098 - Churchill-Eisenhower Inspection of 9th Air Force Station, same report: "Coverage is thorough of newsreel interest." A clipping of an item in the New York TIMES of 11 April, 1944, was sent us with this ED & Tech Report, but is not at hand.

1150
Subject ~~1250~~ - Shanty Town in ETO - project 6, photographed by Capt. Mack's Troop Carrier Detachment. ETR 5 Apr 44: "First-rate local color coverage, aided by exceptionally good photography. Natural material for the Digest."

Subject 1220 - Submarine Vehicles, shot by Maj. Clothier 27-31 March shows how trucks are waterproofed for the inevitable landing in surf on enemy beaches. ETR says, "This is a first-rate technical report, requiring only sound for release. It will be used both in the Digest and as a Film Report. Photography excellent, captions descriptions likewise."

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Subject 1230 - American Red Cross "Club-Mobile". Cameraman Cpl. Gordon A. Davolt.

Subject 1227 - General Dwight Eisenhower Inspects Fighter and Bomber Bases. ETR: "Inspection is adequately covered. Second part of this footage, showing B26s on mission, is an excellent bombing subject but lacks identification of target."

Subject 1305 - T/Sgt. Richard J. Schneider Receives Legion of Merit Decoration. Made Mar 4 by men of Detachment 1. ETR: "Coverage very complete on this subject, exposure and composition good. It is suggested that a picture specifically concerned with the technical improvisations of the sergeant might hold a particular interest for Air Service Command." This is quoted to show how one thing leads to another in this business, and how much demand there is from every quarter for some type of pictorial reporting or training.

Subject 1526 - Gen. Bernard Montgomery Visiting US Airborne Troops. 18 Jan, 44. by Capt. Mack and crew. ETR: "Old but better than average review material, well exposed."

Subject 1510 - 9th AF A-20 Story. Photographed by Lt. Sutliff's at Sta. 170 Detachment Z, 18 April 44. "An exceptional bombing subject containing formations, terrains, target areas and bomb bursts which are about as good as they come. The cameramen responsible for this footage were particularly adept at getting bursts."

During the latter part of March and parts of April, Lt. (j.g.) Mark E. Armistead, Field Photographic Branch of the U. S. Navy, working for the Office of Strategic Services, assigned to the air forces in Europe and now doing special work with the 9th Air Force, was referred to the 4th Combat Camera Unit which referred him to Lt. Browning's detachment at Earle Colne. Lt. Armistead brought Seamen

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Junius J. Stout, C.F. "Brick" Marquard, and R. J. Flynn, writer, to fly missions and cover B26 operations with their new Cunningham Combat cameras. It seems to be one of the answers to the camera problem, being very handy except in cramped quarters.

Detachment No. 1. has agreed to make a 16mm training film for Capt. Robertson, Gunnery Officer at Bomber Command, on defense against fighter attacks on the B-26s. A P-51 will "attack" from 42 different positions and will be "shot" for the training of future gunners.

1 April Lt. J. T. Hynes to hospital for 14 days with pneumonia.

6 April John W. Steger promoted 1Lt to Capt. eff 1 April 44 par 12 SO 92 Hq ETOUSA dtd 1 April 44.

Edward 13009201

24 April T/Sgts. Dusi and Mallison, Tom D. Jr. 18024424 were reclassified MOS nos. 043 to 152 and transferred to 52nd Troop Carrier Wing per par 17 SO 123 Hq 9thAF dtd 24 April, 44.

26 April The following EM trf. as per SO 115, dtd 24 Apr.44 1100B

T/SGT. Jerry J. Joswick	16036823	Sgt. Geo. E. Rothlisberg	36010317
T/Sgt. Fay N. Steele	6936995	Cpl. John P. Davenport	32632445
S/Sgt. Arthur E. Mayhew	12005293	Pvt. William W. Moore	39559562
S/Sgt. Bert W. Reiser	6972916	Pvt. Gerhard G. Stindt	32606263
S/Sgt. Luther A. Todd	19164114		

20 April under Gen. Order 106, Hq 9AF, Air Medals were awarded to Lt. Browning, Sgts. Steele, Kemper, Modesitt, Topjian, Cpl. Davolt and Pfc Snider. Under same order Maj. Clothier and Lt. Browning awarded a Bronze Cluster to the Air Medal.

Strength at end of month 7 Officers and 32 EM.

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History of the Fourth AAF Combat Camera Unit

May, 1944

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During this month the 4th CCU sent 72 shipments of film to the London laboratory, totalling 13, 760 ft, covering a wide variety of air force subjects made by 24 of our cameramen. Nearly everyone in the unit was responsible for some original story. There were many made over Europe of the intensified bombardments by B-26s and A-20s, of glider, parachute devices, preparations for invasion by the Airborne, and last preparations for D-Day. There were several covering VIPers (Very Important People) from an assortment of gentlemen wearing stars to the Assistant Secretary of War McCloy and King Peter, all doing something or other with our airplanes. "Joe Louis Heavy-weight Champ Visits US 9th AF" (Subject 1356) ^{by Major Clothier} ETR 29 May says, "Very adequate coverage and excellent photography. This material definitely valuable for public relations purposes." A story on "'Mild and Bitter', B26 Completes 100th Mission", (Subj. 1374) by Sgts. King, Modesitt and Killorin ran 2600 feet. And a newsreel subject which pleased us as much as any was one the news companies made of us, run by all the reels in the States, called "Cameramen Ready for D-Day". We work so much in back of the cameras it is gratifying to get in front of one, for a change.

All is going smoothly, everyone is keyed for the jump-off as soon as the show starts. We made dry runs to see how fast our courier and lab facilities could get our films of D-Day to the public, and the results make us hope we can scoop the world.

The unit was alerted on May 13 to be ready to move to the Far Shore on D plus 40.

Both B26 camera detachments were consolidated under Lt. Browning with the 323d BG at Sta. 358, Lt. Hynes and Sgts. Todd and Voelker being shifted.

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On 4 May following officers assigned and joined pp 25 SO 110

Hq 9AF:	1Lt Knudtson, Frederic L.	o-922724
	1Lt Scheid, Francis J.	o-924063
	2Lt Lindsay, George E.	o-867531
	2Lt Neely, Robert W.	o-867637

On 21 May Lt. Col. J.E. Felton returned from the United States with reinforcements for the big job ahead. The following EM were attached from Hq, Hq Sqd, Ninth Air Force:

E/Sgt	Haight, Thomas E.	33008991
S/Sgt	Beerman, Robert O.	19117890
S/Sgt	Childs, Harold H.	16014233
S/Sgt	Saeta, Benjamin	19160740
S/Sgt	Trosper, Guy W.	39280123
Sgt	Dietz, Fred R.	39286171
Sgt	Evans, John R.	36322134
Cpl	Buscaino, Joseph V.	32411467
Cpl	Citron, Harold	39290790
Cpl	Laugharn, Harry Jr.	39541681
Cpl	Luzens, Verl E.	15097781
Pfc	Barrett, Robert M., Jr.	18181029
Pfc	DeNarie, Donald H.	32570360
Pfc	Pennington, Clarence R.	18179670
Pvt	Drennan, James J.	32988449
Harker, Harry H.	Pvt	39535103
Pvt	Hintchel, Arvel H.	18191776
Hurst, Wilbur R.	Pvt.	33829483
Pvt	Mingua, Raymond M.	35797347

On General Orders 144, Headqtrs 9th AF, dates 21 May, 1944

Air Medals were awarded to the following officers and EM of this Unit:

1Lt Jack T. Hynes	Cpl Pasquale A. Mirabella
1Lt Glenn F. Sutliff	T/Sgt Tom D. Mallison, Jr.
S/Sgt Arthur E. Mayhew	Cpl John Killorin
Sgt Robert A. Wolber	Pfc Henry C. Rapacz

In addition, first Oak Leaf clusters to the Air Medal were awarded to:

T/Sgt Fay N. Steele	Cpl Gordon A. Davolt
Sgt Gilbert G. Topjian	Pfc Sherman J. Snider
and Third	

Second Oak Leaf clusters to the Air Medal were awarded to:

1Lt Philip W. Browning	T/Sgt Fay N. Steele
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A Fourth Oak Leaf cluster and a First Silver Oak Leaf Cluster was awarded to: T/Sgt Fay N. Steele

Strength as of the end of the month, 11 officers and 53 EM.

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JUNE 1944

HISTORY OF FOURTH COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

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We had made every possible preparation for D-Day. Every man was at his post. Long before June 6, two detachments had gone into the virtual concentration camps of our invasion forces lined up on the south coast of England, waiting. One, composed of Maj. Clothier, Capt. Welbourne and Capt Mack, Lt. Scheid, and Sgts. Childs and Kelley, and Luzena, Mainzer, Welborn, Herzog, Rapacz and Snider, with full field equipment and the best assortment of photo equipment the unit afforded, all loaded into a 1½-ton panel truck, specially modified by Capt. Mack and called "the Big Bitch", and were attached to the 922 Aviation Engineers at Great Barrington. Lt. Madsen, with Sgt. Modesitt and Killorin, went into seclusion with the 834 Aviation Engineers Battalion.

Lt. Gunter, with Sgts. Lopatin, Davolt, Stindt and Buscaino, were with Troop Carrier at Greenham Commons, and had long had ready a special photo A-20 which was assigned to the 4th CCU by Gen. Williams, Troop Carrier. The B26 consisted of Lts. Browning and Hynes, and Sgts. Voelker, Steele, Todd and Topjian. The A20s were to be covered by Lt. Lindsay and Sgts. Kemper, Wolber, Mayhew, and Allen.

The afternoon of June 5 Lt. Gunter phoned Lt. Fleck, Adjutant, for extra photographers and cameras, giving our Hq its first hint that D-Day was at hand. First Sgt. Merkel and Sgt. Lopatin worked all night shooting the paratrooper invaders taking off. Sgt. Mirabella took off at dawn in the first of a stream of C-47s which towed gliders to Caen. Lt. Gunter and Stindt, and later Sgts. Merkel and Lopatin, flew photo missions in their A20 to the scenes of the most violent actions.

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Our bombers hit gun emplacements along a stretch of Normandy beach near Ste. Mere Eglise at 0624 on historic June 6, and 33 seconds later the first of 330,000 American soldiers stormed ashore. The pictures we made over the invasion fleet and of the fighting for the coast were the first to reach the world. Cinemas in London showed our films the same afternoon, and they were running in New York the next day at noon. Our streamlined laboratory- and courier system scooped the world. It was four days later before any other agency landed motion pictures of the invasion in the United States.

Lt. Madsen's crew spent a week at sea on an LST before D-Day, laid overnight under enemy air attack about twelve miles offshore the night before the debarkment, and transferred to an "alligator" for the run to Idaho Beach. Their craft received several direct hits by 88mm shells which killed some men and burned out the engines, so, while Modesitt stayed with the jeep to bring it ashore next day, Lt. Madsen and Killorin boarded an LCVT and went in with the first wave. They swam the last 40 yards under a hail of bullets carrying cameras and film, picked a way through dense mine fields, and fought the rest of the day to clear the beachhead of Germans. Living in foxholes, under air raids by night and sniper fire by day, they photoes the construction of the first landing strip in France. It was intended primarily for an ergency field for aircraft in distress, but C-47s were soon bringing in blood plasma and medical supplies, and taking our film out. The 834th moved on to build a second strip near Grandcamp for fighter operations, and our boys went along. The C. O. of the 834th recommended the three for the Silver Star for conspicuous service. They were subsequently awarded the Bronze Star.

Major Clothier's larger detachment was scheduled to go in on D-5,

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but it was 2100 on D-9 before the Big Bitch and crew landed from an LST on Idaho Beach made light by gun flashes and shellfire. Pushing inland 8 miles, they stayed ten days at Longueville where infantrymen and airmen lived side by side constantly within range of enemy guns and under air attack. They covered in pictures the action in Carentan, Ste. Mere Eglise, Montebourg, Valognes, and the fall of Cherbourg.

44,000 feet of combat film was turned in by this unit during the month.

Lt. Col. Felton made some more changes in our personnel. T/Sgt Haight, S/Sgt Beerman, Sgt Evans, Cpl Laughran, and Pvt H. Harker were relieved from attachment and returned to Hq Hq Sgd. and S/Sgt Guy Trosper was transferred to SHEAF in exchange for an enlarger.

Sgt. Carl W. Voelker was awarded the Air Medal and three Bronze Clusters. Lt. Jack T. Hynes received his first and second Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal, Lt. Philip W. Browning received the 4th Bronze, first Silver, and 6th Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal, and T/Sgt Fay N. Steele was awarded the 7th, 8th, and 9th Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal.

Strength of the unit at month's end. 11 Officers and 46 enlisted men.

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JULY 1944

HISTORY OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

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With half of our personnel and all of our hearts on the Far Shore, we continued coverage of the invasion air support from England, and put a new unit in the field. Sgt. King and Cpl. Luzena, with the 365 Fighter Group, developed a 35mm camera mount for the P-47 and started recording the exciting and important game the fighter-bombers were playing.

On July 4th the people of bomb- and shell-torn Normandie, of whose sympathies we had never felt too sure, found among the ruins of their homes some bits of ornament and hospitality, and spontaneously turned out en masse in all the villages to celebrate our Independence Day. From then on we were at home in France. In turn, we celebrated Bastille Day with them, put on at Grandcamp the first movie show any of the French had seen in four years, and otherwise cooperated with Civil Affairs to improve the relations between our army and the public. All this was made in pictures. We photographed our medics giving aid to French civilians, and the little Jayhawk cemetery at Ste. Mere Eglise where 1700 bodies, both American and German, lay piled waiting for burial. Always our cameramen were in the thick of things. The siege of St. Malo was covered by Capt. Mack, Mr. Scheuerman, Modesitt and Killorin, who were among the first into the citadel when its Mad Commander capitulated. Lt. Bray, Joswick and Stindt kept watch in forward observation posts under artillery fire while Brest fell. We covered the action at Rennes, and on the 25th and 26th at St. Lo. Maj. Clothier, Capt Mack and Capt. Welbourne, Lt. Madsen, Lt. Sutliff, and Sgt. Modesitt narrowly escaped being killed by our own aerial bombardment. Lts. Madsen and Sutliff were with the tanks of the Spearhead Division in the push to Chartres. Sgt. Lopatin and Stindt left off their weapons, put on Red Cross brassards, and went out with the medics

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to make a story of blood plasma transfusions in the midst of battle that was the real thing.

Toward the middle of July the two far shore units met at Grandcamp les Bains, chosen to be 9th AF "Gangway Advanced" headquarters, and set up a "home" for the Unit when it should officially move across the Channel.

Pfc Byron K. Allen, youngest member of our Unit and one of its best loved, whose slight frame and close-cropped poll earned him the name of "the little bird without any feathers at all hardly", full of fun and daring, was killed July 5th near Graystone, England, when he bailed out of a flak-damaged A-20 at low altitude and his chute didn't open in time. The plane, lightened by his few pounds, made a nearly miraculous safe landing. Allen was buried in Cambridge Military Cemetery with the whole Unit in attendance.

S/Sgt. Fay W. Steele, having done an outstanding job of still photography on 58 action-filled missions with the Marauders, was given a trip home to Tennessee for 30 days rest and recuperation. He left Earls Colne on July 4th. Lt. Browning's unit, with the 323d BG's B-26s, moved to Beaulieu, near Southampton, on the 16th, to be nearer the targets in Normandie.

On 3d July a new-type camera unit arrived at Ninth AF headquarters and was attached to us temporarily. It was the 162nd Combat Camera Unit, organized by Lt. Col. Hal Roach and brought overseas on a 90-day trial basis. Its duty will be to make 16mm films, on demand of proper authority, in the form of film reports, and produce prints on short notice. It is equipped with automatic developing and printing machines and all auxiliary equipment as well as cameras and lights, and is composed of 2Lt. Emmet E. "Van" Hefflin, OIC, 2Lt Joseph A. Moscarel, Sgts. Hardy,

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Levinson, and Mastrangelo, and Cpls Bloom, Busby, Levitt, Dervin and Long. On July 6 this unit was assigned to IX Bomber Division, at Marks Hall.

On the 7th of July, Capt. John W. Steger was transferred to Hq, 9th AF, from the 4CCU, and Lt. Philip W. Browning was appointed Captain, effective 10 July. Pvts. Hintchel and Mingua were relieved from attachment and returned to Hq, Hq Sqd. on the 11th, and on 27th S/Sgt Reiser was transferred to the 10th Photo Recon Group. Lt. Wm. Ewell was assigned on 1st July, and was detailed Supply Officer. He had been acting in that capacity for both the 4CCU and Photo Section since his arrival at 9thAF HQ on 19 April, 1944.

The Unit was awarded Battle Participation Credit OPGA 200.6 "Air Offensive Europe" on 19 July, 1944, Letter HQ ETOUSA.

Strength of Unit as of July 31, 11 officers and 42 enlisted men.

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11 AUG 1944 -
30 JUNE 45

HISTORY OF THE
4th AAF COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

August 1944
thru June 1945

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AUGUST 1944

History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit

August - a month marked by moves, Most of the men and much equipment not already on DS in the UK had crossed the Channel to France. Dietz, Citron Barrett, DeNarie, Drennan, and Hurst were relieved from attachment and returned to Hq. Squadron, and Schadlich, Rothlisberg, Davenport, Mirabella and Atwood were attached to Hq Squadron to take care of Unit property which must be left behind for the time being.

Projectionists Citron and DeNarie hereby left their own special theater called "The White Elephant of Ascot" (or disrespectfully, "Felton's Folly"), especially built through the courtesy of the Staff Photo Section for the projection of the 4th CCU material for the Generals and their Staffs. A total of three showings were held for the Generals Brereton and Strahm, where all of the 4th's D-Day film was projected, plus Ninth Air Force GSAP Film. The theater was a converted Nissen hut and a half. The half was the projection room which stood about eight feet above the auditorium and housed two 35mm and two 16mm sound projectors, a turntable and recordings for sound effects on silent films, and shelves of dupes of the film shot by this Unit. The auditorium was the converted Nissen hut with floor lowered about five feet into the ground. The concrete floor was covered with regulation British brown linoleum. The walls were light blue, decorated with sketches of Ninth Air Force aircraft. Fluorescent lights illuminated the auditorium which seated eighty-two people in comfortable easy chairs. The theater, used so seldom for official showings, was greatly enjoyed by the Enlisted Men of this Unit and Photo Section. Because of official indecision and last minute changes concerning movements to the Continent, Lt. Fleck and S/Sgt. Merkel were the "4th CCU" which moved to Grandcamp les Bains, Normandy, on August 3rd, "on paper only", minus men and equipment.

At Grandcamp we were once more a Unit, with offices and Officers quartered

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in an old house and the men living in tents on the lawn. In addition to its own personnel returning to the fold, Capt. Welbourne, Lts. Allen, Madsen, and Sutliff, W.O. Scheuerman, T/Sgts. Beerman and Haight, S/Sgts. Bruce and Evans, Cpls. Laughran and Will, Pfc. DeNarie and Mask, and Pvt. Harker were attached from Hq and Hq Squadron. Lt. Madsen went to Troop Carrier to cover activities and preparations for further operations.

On August 5th the Unit moved again with Gangway Advanced; this time to St. Savuer Lendelin on the south coast of the Cherbourg Peninsula. On the 14th Capt. Welbourne, Lt. Madsen, and Sgt. Beerman, Childs, Evans and Buscaino and Pfc. Mask were relieved from attachment and returned to Hq. Squadron 9th Air Force Rear.

When Headquarters moved to Laval on August 23, we moved to Force, a few miles away, where we were housed in a schoolhouse. Now the Germans were rolling back fast, Paris was being Liberated, and the war was far away from us. Calvados was scarce, but the weather was warm and sunny, in contrast to summerless England, and our surroundings were no longer strange to us. Our priceless Mario Mongini with his fluent French was major domo, taking charge of all the local "French" situations, procuring everything, fixing everything, being guide, interpreter, and seriocomic. We'd have been lost without him.

Cpl. Herzog, our sound man and teller of tall tales, had some personal affairs, which he thought were left back in England, catch up with him. For this and some fresh escapades he was busted to Private by a long-suffering C.O. Orders were put in to transfer him to XIX TAC.

On August 26 the first bombers arrived from England for operations from French soil. The 323rd led the way, with Capt. Browning in the nose of the first B-26 to touch the steel plank runway of an A-20 Airstrip at Lessay.

The Unit sent in 82 film subjects totalling 29,400 feet this month

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exposed by 29 Photographers. Our boys made pictures of the ruins of Villa Coublay, the big airfield southwest of Paris, which the Germans were supposed to have just evacuated. Two hours after they left this field a group of officers in a jeep were cut to pieces by machine-gun fire. Why our fellows weren't fired on they can't figure out.

Strength at end of August, 14 Officers and 35 Enlisted Men.

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SEPTEMBER 1944

History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit.

Capt. Mack took over as Commanding Officer of the Unit in place of Major Clothier whose new duty was Motion Picture Officer of the Ninth Air Force. The Unit moved with Gangway Main to Chantilly, Oise on September 11th. Lt. Col. Sam Greenwald, who had been working at the London Lab., and now retiring from active duty, stopped at Chorley, England on his way home to the States to make a movie on airmen going through the replacement pool. The picture was entitled "Happy Warriors". Mr. Scheuerman and Sgt. Davolt went to the 370th Fighter Group at Y-78, Florennes, Belgium, to cover P-38 operations. These included reconnaissance, strafing, fighter escort, dive-bombing "pickle-barrel" bombing, and precision bombing by bombardier carrying droopsnoots. Cpl. Luzena has been attached to the 365th Fighter Group since June, at Montebourg, Bayeux, Bretigny, and several other fields. Cpat. Browning returned to Headquarters from DS to the 323rd Bomb Group, leaving Lt. Hynes in charge of B-26 coverage. Capt. Browning began filming a story on the P-61 Black Widow night fighters of the 425th Night Fighter Squadron, located at Coulomiers. After two weeks he received orders for 30 days TDY for rest and recuperation in the ZI. Lt. Sutliff then took over the leadership of the detachment. Lt. Lindsay arrived in France with the 416th Bomb Group (Light) on the 29th. During the month Capt. Scheid and Sgt. Childs and Sgt. Kelley borrowed a WAC from the WAC Detachment and a Corporal from the 316th Station Complement and Headed for Paris to do a story called "A WAC and a GI See Paris". Lt. Lindsay was promoted to 1st Lt. effective 15 August 1944. Sgt. Rothlisberg was relieved from attachment and returned to Hq. & Hq. Squadron, 9th Air Force. Lt. Waldo M. Johnson, O-864671, assigned to Hq Squadron, arrived in France for duty with this Unit.

The Unit's cameramen exposed 27,200 feet covering 46 subjects. Among the bigger stories made were the fall of the citadel at St. Malo, By Capt Mack and Sgt. Killorin, 1,000 feet; Fighter Control by Ly. Scheid and Kelley, 5,000 feet; Bombers move to France, by Sgts. Kemper and Wolber, 3,200 feet; Black Widows, Capt Browning and Sgt. Voelker, 3300 feet.

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Red Cross Club at Cherbourg by Sgt. Todd, 1,100 feet; 818th Aviation Engineers Rebuild German Airfields, Killorin and Snider, 1,800 feet; and Col. Greenwalds "Happy Warriors", 1,700 feet.

Strength of the Unit at month's end, 13 Officers and 33 Enlisted Men.

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OCTOBER 1944

History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit

The War was moving on and the Unit found plenty of subjects to make into interesting pictures. Capt. Madsen, with Sgts. Joswick, Beerman, and Todd were attached to the 3rd Armored Division that spearheaded the drive into Aachen. They rode with the tanks and on the outskirts of the city photographed the dive-bombers softening the enemy ahead. They followed the tanks into the city and "shot" the surrender of the garrison.

At this time it was found that the distances between our Headquarters and our teams photographing at the front had become so great that too much time was being taken to transport film, supplies, and the men themselves. So an A-20 type aircraft was attached to the Unit. It was piloted by Capt. Chester R. Jackson, navigated by 1st Lt. Alfred H. Maltby, and crewed by S/Sgt. Donald E. Burns and Sgt. LaMoine Wark, all on TDY from the 416th Bomb Group. The plane was also used for special photograph work. This very same plane that was now attached to the Unit was the one from which B.K. Allen jumped to his death three months earlier in England with the same Capt. Jackson as the pilot.

On the 15th the following promotions were made: 2nd Lt. Robert W. Neely to 1st Lt. per par 13 SO 289 Hq Ninth Air Force; Capt. Robert S. Mack to Major per par 10 same SO; and 1st Lt. Glenn F. Sutliff to Capt. per par 11, same SO. On the 19th the above mentioned crew of the A-20 were temporarily returned to the 416th Bomb Group. Sgt. Gottlieb and Cpl. Laughran were relieved from attachment and returned to Hq and Hq Squadron Ninth Air Force, on the 21st. Two days later T/Sgt. Fay N. Steele left for home for a 30 day rest and recuperation, authority: par 13 SO 289, Hq Ninth Air Force dated 15 October 1944. The long-suffering C.O. mentioned last month came to the end of the proverbial rope with another of the Enlisted Men, S/Sgt. James H. Modesitt, who fouled up for the last time. He was transferred with little delay to Det B, Hq & Hq Squadron, IX Fighter

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Command.

By the 24th of the month the Unit had shot 15,000 feet of film and covered 34 subjects. The larger projects were as Follows: Photo and TAC Reconnaissance, 2,500 feet by Lt. Gunter; Dive-bombing of Aachen, 1900 feet by Capt. Madsen and Sgt. Joswick; Air-Ground cooperation with tanks 3000 feet by Capt Sutliff, Sgt. Modesitt and Pfc. Rapacz.

Strength at the end of this month was 13 Officers and 30 Enlisted Men.

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History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit

The A-20 with Capt. Jackson, Lt. Maltby, and Sgt. Wark were sent back to us again. They were not transferred to us, but the move was considered almost permanent because the A-20 would be with the Unit probably until the end of the war. During the month it was decided to give Sgt. Merkel a change of scenery, so he was sent out into the field to make photographic coverage with the rest of the photographers. The adjutant scrounged around for a replacement and S/Sgt. Hugh L. Abbott, 14032592, of Hq. & Hq. Sq., Ninth Air Force, was assigned per par 9 SO 317, Hq. Ninth Air Force, dated 12 November 1944. On the 15th, 1st Lt. Francis "Daddy" Scheid was promoted to Captain per par 1 SO 320, Hq. Ninth Air Force.

At the time the Photographic Officer was sifting the photo personnel of the Air Force for men to send to IX Troop Carrier Command for the formation of another Combat Camera Unit. The following Officer and Enlisted Men were transferred on the 19th: Capt. John W. Steger, S/Sgt. Lane B. Kemper, S/Sgt. Arthur E. Mayhew, Sgt. George E. Rothlisberg, Cpl. John P. Davenport, Pfc. Donald H. DeNarie and Pfc. Samuel J. Atwood.

The 162nd Motion Picture Unit that had passed through our portals last July 3rd appeared on the scene again. That Organization was being revamped and on the 25th this Unit received several of their personnel on TDY. They were 2nd Lt. Emmet E. Heflin, Sgt. Wilfred R. Hardy, Cpl. Alfred L. Levitt, and Cpl. Lawrence J. Dervin.

Sgt. Gilbert G. Topjian was returned to the Unit from DS with the Photo Lab in London.

Awards for the month were as follows:

Bronze Star Medal(Par 1, SecII, GO No. 260, Hq., Ninth Air Force, 7 Nov. 1944) to ALBERT R. MADSEN, O-923331, First Lieutenant, for

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for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 6 June 1944.

Bronze Star Medal (same GO) to James H. Modesitt, 15112920, Staff Sergeant for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 6 June 1944.

Bronze Star Medal (same GO) to JOHN KILLORIN, Corporal, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 6 June 1944.

Air medal (Par 4, Sect III, GO No 260, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 7 Nov 1944) in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations, having participated in the required number of operational sorties against the enemy, to:

1st Lt. MARVIN L. GUNTER	0-859997
1st Lt. ROBERT W. NEELY	0-867687
1st Lt. GEORGE E. LINDSAY	0-867531
S/SGT. JAMES V. KING	19160007
PFC. WILLIAM R. THOMAS	13060431
PVT. GERHARD S. STINDT	32606263

First Oak Leaf Cluster (Par 5a Sect III, same GO above)

S/SGT. LANE B. KEMPER	37034077
S/SGT. ARTHUR E. MAYHEW	12005393
SGT. ROBERT A. WOLBER	32042313
PFC. HENRY S. RAPACZ	16143404
PFC. WILLIAM R. THOMAS	13060431

Second Oak Leaf Cluster

1ST LT. GLENN F. SUTLIFF	0-1030604
S/SGT. LANE B. KEMPER	37034077
S/SGT. ARTHUR E. MAYHEW	12005393

Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster

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1ST LT. JACK T. HYNES

0-578022

First Silver Oak Leaf Cluster

1ST LT. JACK T. HYNES

0-578022

SGT. CARL W. VOELKER

13154021

Sixth Oak Leaf Cluster

1ST LT. JACK T. HYNES

0-578022

Seventh Oak Leaf Cluster

CAPT. PHILIP W. BROWNING 0-924578

During the month photographic coverage, totalling 29,600 feet of motion picture film, was made on the following subjects: P-38, A-20, and A-26 Type aircrafts; Fighter Control; Ninth Air Force War Dogs; and Air-Ground Cooperation.

Strength as of 30 November, 13 Officers and 31 Enlisted Men.

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DECEMBER 1944

History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit

The Christmas spirit hit the Unit early, because packages from home had been pouring in rather early, and why let good cookies and fruit cake lie around until the 25th? So as the boxes arrived, they were opened by the individuals and shared by all. The Officers decided to make Christmas Day a memorable one and so planned for a party to be held one the afternoon of the 25th on the 3rd floor of our office building at No 1 Rue Andre, Chantilly, Oise, France. Cpl. Mongini, with his fluent French, went on a supply mission to Rheims and Epernay and returned with sixty bottles of Champagne. This was the foundation for the party. The mess Officer of the station came through with bread, meat, and cheese for our sandwiches. The French forests are now missing one fine evergreen tree which was set up and decorated with "window", home made decorations, and some bought in stores. It was lighted with red and green floodlights. Music was furnished by an accordionist, guitarist, and base fiddler, borrowed from the Station Special Service Office. The Officers, being the hosts, did the decorating and served the Champagne (Lts. Ewell and Johnson were the bartenders and the latter claims that he was the only one that remained sober, and being a bartender, that was quite an accomplishment). Mrs. Allen, mother one of our late members, had sent the boys a Christmas Package of cookies, marshmallows, and candies. This was also served. Toward the end of the party our reserved and sincere Supply Officer, Lt. Ewell, proceeded to direct the movement of a jeep up the front steps of the building. S/Sgt. Abbott was driving, and they had some peculiar idea of placing the jeep in the front hall of the building. They never quite succeeded, but did manage to weaken the stone bannister enough so that the first person to lean on it knocked it over. Proper punishment was administered. It was an unfortunate incident to an otherwise perfect party.

On the 4th of this month some long deserved promotions came through.

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They consisted of the following:

Thomas E. Haight, Jr.	33008991	to M/Sgt.
James V. King	19160007	to T/Sgt.
Gordon A. Davolt	37437895	to Sgt.
Ira O. Welborn	34349746	to Sgt.
John Killorin	32318132	to Sgt.
Paige J. Nelson	35290665	to Cpl.
Sherman J. Snider	15376966	to Cpl.
Mario Mongini	32870290	to Cpl.
Gerhard S. Stindt	32606263	to Cpl.
William W. Moore	39559562	to Cpl.

The London Lab continued to operate even though telephonic communications between it and this Headquarters was very trying at times. Film to be developed and cut was sent to them by way of Ninth Air Force Courier. This was fairly satisfactory, except on RUSH jobs, which were usually taken directly to the Lab by one of our own men. The Lab needed some additional men so Cpl. Alfred Levitt and Cpl. Lawrence J. Dervin were sent there on DS on the 6th.

On the 9th the Unit bid farewell to Lt. "Van Heflin", who was being returned to the Zone of Interior, per Ltr Hq. Ninth Air Force dated 5 Dec 1944. We envied him going back to the coast of Southern California. On the same day one of our seemingly long lost members returned to the Unit Capt. Philip W. Browning, looking fit after his rest and recuperation at his home in Michigan. On the same day 1st Lt. Frederic L. Knudtson, 6-922-724, was transferred to Hq. & Hq. Squadron, Headquarters Ninth Air Force, per par 18 SO 338 same Hq. dated 3 Dec 1944. On the 10th the Unit received through the mail changes of address cards for Sgts. Voelker and Lopatin saying that they were now in the 99th General Hospital. This was quite a shock, because these boys had left the Unit on the 5th and were going to

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Station A-78, Florennes, Belgium, to work there with the 474th Fighter Group. Nothing had been heard from them so it was presumed that they had arrived at their destination. After several unsuccessful telephone calls to the Hospital, it was learned that the men had been evacuated to someplace but only God and the Medics knew and the Medics weren't sure. So Capt. Browning took off to locate them. A trip to Rheims, the location of the Hospital, revealed that the boys had been in a vehicle accident on the road outside of the City. The vehicle was found in an Ordnance Shop and arrangements were made to have it repaired. The equipment that had been on the vehicle was missing. Perhaps civilians had picked the things during the two days that the vehicle had lain in the ditch along the road. The 'patients' had been placed on a Hospital train that made its way through Paris. Where it went from there, no one was sure. Capt. Browning returned to Headquarters and with Lt. Fleck headed off for the office of the Surgeon, in Paris, ETOUSA. There it was learned that Sgt. Voelker was evacuated to Cherbourg and from there would go to England. Sgt. Lopatin was sent to a Field Hospital near Le Mans, France, so the two Officers took off to find him. He was located the next day. In the accident his head had been bumped hard and it affected the movement of an eye. His shoulder was also bruised, but in a few weeks he would be back to duty again. "Lope" told these Officers later that after they left the other patients remarked how wonderful it was that his Officers had made a several hundred mile trip just to see how he was. But it was not unusual for the Unit because that is the human way in which it operates.

December 12-Sgt. Wilfred S. Hardy, 37430119, was relieved from TDY and returned to his Organization, the 162 Motion Picture Unit. Lt. William T. Ewell, who Supply Officer for the Unit since last April, although assigned to Hq & Hq Squadron, was assigned to the Unit.

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December 13th-The following Officers and Men were transferred to IX Troop Carrier Command, per par 13 SO 320 Hq. Ninth Air Force dated 15 November 1944:(this was part of the move begun by Col. Felton last month)

1st Lt. Marvin L. Gunter	O-859997
1st Lt. Robert W. Neely	O-867687
T/Sgt. Jerry J. Joswick	16036823
T/Sgt. Fay N. Steele	6926995
S/Sgt. Luther A. Todd	19164114

December 17th - Cpls. Arthur J. Mainzer and Mirabella were placed on TDY with the 323rd Bomb Group.

December 21st - Cpl. Harold Citron and Pfc. Wilbur R. Hurst were transferred from Hq& Hq Sq. to our Unit per par 19 SO 347 Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 12 December 1944. Cpl. Citron has been with the Unit as a projectionist since his arrival in the ETO last April. In civilian life, Harold ran a chain of theaters in Los Angeles, so he knows all the angles of the comforts and discomforts of an audience. He had an 'in' with Special Service, so we got the best films and short subjects and ran them for the Unit. Cpl. Hurst is an irreplaceable Camera Repair Man. Not only repairs but builds any new parts for camera equipment that may be needed.

December 22nd - Cpl. Verl E. Luzena and Pfc. Anthony Friedman transferred to the Unit per SO 347 Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 22 December. Cpl. Luzena is another Camera Repair Man and Tony Friedman is a cutter now working at the Photo Lab in London.

December 24th - Sgt. Roy C. Childress was placed on Detached Service to the Unit from the 416th Bomb Group for the purpose of assisting in the maintenance of the A-20 aircraft which the Unit is Using.

December 31st - Capt. Browning, Sgts. King and Wolber were placed on TDY with the 10th Photo Reconnaissance Group at Station A-94 to make camera mounts for the P-38's and P-47's at the request of Col. Hall,

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Director of Reconnaissance and Photography.

Operationally the Unit was busy this month. Capt. Madsen and Sgt. Childs were attached to the 3rd Armored Division photographing the Air-Ground Cooperation of the Division and the Ninth Air Force, and they crossed the Roer River with them. As the German break-through began in the Ardennes, they joined the 82nd Airborne Division and made photographic coverage in and around Malmedy and Stavelot on the 21, 22, and 23rd of the Month. They returned for the famous Christmas Party, and again returned to the field, this time to Station A-78, Florennes, Belgium on the 27th. From here they flew combat missions over the bulge. The A-20 went to Station A-78 also, and with a total of 2 Officers and 6 EM, was used to photograph fighter missions, bomb strikes, and the destruction of German transportation. All during this month Mr. Scheuerman, Sgt. Davolt and Cpl. Luzena were still with the 474th Fighter Group, flying over the Bulge in P-38's. A group of one Officer and five EM were flying with the 323rd Bomb Group from station A-69 in B-26's. The Unit was also represented on the ground on the Lorraine Front by Lt. Johnson and Sgts. Merkel and Wolber.

A total of 50 Subjects were shot with 15,200 feet of film. Strength at the end of the month was 9 Officers and 30 Enlisted Men.

JANUARY 1945

History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit

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The Unit is operating more efficiently than it had ever been before. After being overseas and in full operation for over a year, we are now fully aware of our purpose in the Ninth Air Force. We thought of how much more we might have accomplished had we known at the outset of just what our duties consisted.

In answer to a request of the Commanding General, through the Director of Photography, Col. Hall, we began to prepare a monthly report, showing in condensed form, the projects and activities covered by the Unit in the preceding month, and January. The history for this month is being written in June 1945 therefore it is possible to look back and say that this Monthly Report in motion pictures would have been a great morale factor for the entire Ninth Air Force. It was planned to show this picture to the Commanding General and then send it to all Ninth Air Force installations. It would be shown in addition to a feature and would be, as it were, a special news reel of subject ^{matter} concerning only this Air Force. The project imposed additional work on our Lab facilities and personnel, but they were quick to see the benefit of such a film. The January report was the first.

Until this month the Headquarters Photo Section have been using the same building as this Unit, although that Section was shooting and processing only still photographs. Supply of both Organizations was being handled in one Supply Room, by one Supply Officer and one Supply Sergeant. Equipment was intermingled to such an extent that it would take months to get it straightened out, if the organizations ever separated and they did and it did. The Photo Section moved to another location in the same town taking all its belongings with it. With the move the following changes of personnel took place:

Capt. Albert R. Madsen	T/Sgt. Harold A. Childs
2nd Lt. Waldo M. Johnson	S/Sgt. John R. Evans
WO(jg) Charles B. Scheuerman	Cpl. Joseph V. Buscaino

transferred from Hq & Hq Sq to the Unit pp 3 & 4 SO 364 Hq Ninth AF dtd 29

Dec 1944.

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M/Sgt. Thomas E. Haight, Jr S/Sgt. Malcolm M. Bruce
Cpl. Edwin J. Will
relieved from attachment to this Unit and turned back to Hq & Hq Sq.

January 3rd - S/Sgt. Ralph Lopatin returned from the hospital after recovering from injuries received in the vehicle accident a month ago.

January 7th - S/Sgt. Merkel, Cpls. Buscaino, Mainzer and Mirabella, and Pfc. Thomas were returned to the Unit from TD with the 323rd Bomb Group.

January 17th - 2nd Lt. Waldo M. Johnson promoted to 1st Lt. pp 4 SO 15 Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 15 January. Cpls. Mainzer and Mirabella relieved from DS with the 323rd Bomb Group.

January 20th - Lt. Robert J. Hanlon was placed on Detached Service to the Unit from the 416th Bomb Group. He is a Bombardier-Navigator and will navigate the A-20 being used by the Unit.

January 22nd - Lt. Jack T. Hynes, after flying 52 missions in Combat was sent to the 134th Replacement Depot on his way home to the great state of Texas for a rest and recuperation. On the same day all the following named EM were promoted to the grade of Sergeant pp 14 SO 19 Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 19

January 1945:

Cpl. Joseph V. Buscaino
Cpl. Pasquale A. Mirabella
Cpl. Sherman J. Snider
Pfc. Gerhard S. Stindt

Cpl. Arthur J. Mainzer
Cpl. Paige J. Nelson
Pfc. Henry S. Rapacz
Pfc. William R. Thomas

Until this time, because of T/O trouble, it had been impossible to promote most of the men who had earned promotions. Now, because all of the men named above were flying combat, it was possible to give the promotions. The morale of the Unit went up quickly.

The Air Force and Ground Forces were looking for eligible enlisted personnel who could be transferred to a training center for reinforcement for the Infantry. This Unit received notification from Headquarters Ninth Air Force, that those who met the physical requirements would have to be made available for the infantry. Our first quota was for 3 men. The CO

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objected furiously because the Unit was very busy and needed all the men. If a motion picture photographer were taken away there would be no replacement to be had in the ETO, so Headquarters came through with an idea. They would give us some men from another outfit and we could transfer them to the Infantry if they qualified. And so on the 31st of the month the following men were transferred from the 134th Replacement Battalion, pp 14 SO 28 from that Headquarters;

Pfc. Warran H. Taylor	32360510	Pvt. Joseph J. Shea	33366268
	Pvt. James D. Newland	6887267	

During the month the ground was covered with snow ~~and~~ most of the time. As some would melt away, more would fall. This type of weather affected operations tremendously. We wanted to get all we could of these operations so teams were trotted off to the fields. All during this month a team of three Officers and seven EM photographed the P-47s at Metz. One of the best shots of the month was the crash of 2 P-47s. One was coming in for a landing on the ice-covered runway. He skidded off the runway and crashed right into the other plane head on which was parked there. There were no casualties. This action was photographed by Sgt. Stindt.

At the same time the P-47s were being covered at Rheims by Capt Scheid. He got a good humorous shot of the pilots being taken to their ships on sleds which were pulled by a Jeep.

Capt. Browning and Sgts. King and Wolber were still at A-94, Photographing P-51s.

Cpl. Citron was in London, at the Lab, from the 2nd to the 18th, for the purpose of projecting all of the Unit's film for Col. Wyler, who came up from Italy with the hopes of getting some film for the inclusion to a picture that he was working on. However Col. Wyler never did view the film so Cpl. Citron worked on the cutting of GSAP film.

From the 3rd to the 20th Lt. Ewell was in the UK getting Supplies.

The P-38s were still being covered by Mr. Scheuerman, Sgt. Davolt and

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Cpl. Luzena. The coverage of A-26s was believed complete enough to draw in all the personnel who had been photographing these planes. Completion of the coverage had included winter operations under conditions of ice and snow.

Strength at the close of the month was 11 Officers and 35 Enlisted Men.

February was bitterly cold. The "battle of the Bulge" was steamed at last and had been fully recorded by several Camera Crews working in the Belgian snows. A Motion Pictures report, addressed to the Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, was completed, with sound. The report gave news coverage of the activities of the Ninth Air Force as a whole, and was intended for distribution within it. It was received very well, and praised as a great morale builder, as every organization could see what the Ninth was doing, and could thus realize the part its own individual efforts were playing in the conflict. The monthly report had to be discontinued, however, because with the arrival of Major John (Danger is My Business) Craig from Washington, who brought the news that a special motion picture project was on its way, would require the complete facilities and personnel of the 4th Combat Camera Unit. Thus was announced the coming of the Special Film Project 186, whose mission was the filming, in color and for purposes of public release, the Air Forces part in the European victory. Inasmuch as this meant a later complete shift to Color Photography for the 4th, additional Monthly Film reports could not be prepared.

Early in February, Sgts. Childress and Wark, on DS with the Unit from the 416th Bomb Group for maintenance of the A-20 Photo plane, were requested by their organization. The 416th Bomb Group had intended to replace Childress and Wark with M/Sgt. Clarence M. Boyer and Pfc. Edwin Borman, and had transferred them to Hq. Squadron, Ninth Air Force. They later were picked up by the Unit on 2 February, (par 21, SO 33, 2 Feb. 1945). Inasmuch as Childress and Wark were well known by the 4th and were familiar with the aircraft, arrangements were made to keep them so they were transferred to this organization on the 22nd February, (par 16, SO 51, 20 Feb 1945). On the 19th, M/Sgt. Moyer was transferred to the 96th Station Complement (par 15, SO 45, 14 Feb. 1945) and Pfc. Borman was transferred to Ninth Bomb Division (par 17, SO 51, 20 Feb. 1945).

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On Feb. 4th, 1st Lt. William B. Ostrander and 2nd Lt. Robert J. Hanlon, the pilot and navigator on DS to the Unit from the 416th Bomb Group were transferred to our organization (par6, SO 33, 2 Feb. 1945). This team had proven to be very efficient, had learned what the photographer needed on photographic missions, and were a welcome addition to the Unit.

In January Lt. Lindsay, S/Sgts. Evans and Lopatin, and Sgts. Killorin and Kelley and Rapacz had gone to Arlon and Bastogne, Belgium, for coverage of air support operations as they concerned the 'battle of the bulge'. Leaving Sgts. Kelley and Evans with the 6th Armored Division on the southern shoulder of the bulge, the rest proceeded to the northern flank, near Eschweiler. There Aviation Engineers were building an airstrip utilizing the broad autobahn highway as a runway. A request from Ninth Engineer Command for two photographers to cover this type of activity happened to come in at the same time, so T/Sgt. Childs was sent up on the 6th of February and with Sgt. Killorin stayed on with the Aviation Engineers to make important documentary records of the construction of airstrips under difficult weather conditions and deep snow, all under enemy observation and occasional shellings!

At this time the Port of Antwerp was under heavy attack by flying bombs and rockets. Radio instructions to Lt. Lindsay resulted in his driving directly to Antwerp accompanied by Sgts. Rapacz and Lopatin. This proved a very interesting assignment but it was soon found that specialized equipment was required, so the three returned to Chantilly, France, to obtain same. Returning to Antwerp the team photographed a story showing the method of control of this menace to the Allies most important port-the coverage including methods of detecting, plotting courses of, and destroying V-1 flying bombs. Additional footage was filmed to show the effect of these bombs which did get through our defenses. The following letter was received from Col. Robert B. Miller, Chief of Motion Picture Services Division, Headquarters Army Air Forces Washington, D.C. dated 23 April 1945:

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- "1. Attention is invited to Subject 3540, 'Antwerp X, V-1 Damage', 6180 feet, ...
..... photographed by Lt. Lindsay, Sgt. Lopatin and Sgt. Rapacz of the 4th
AAF Combat Camera Unit.
2. This film offers important and tragic human interest coverage of devastation
in Antwerp area and brutal killings of the civilians, resulting from indiscriminate
German V-1 bombings, as well as a spectacular record of the destruction of enemy
buzz bombs in flight.
3. Only exceptional camera skill and tireless effort under circumstances of extreme
personal risk could have made this such an outstanding job of combat reporting.
4. It is recommended that Unit and cameramen receive appropriate commendation
through your headquarters."

This letter was addressed to the Commanding General, Ninth Air Force. It was
indorsed in the following words by Brigadier General A.C. Kincaid, Deputy Commanding
General;

"The Commanding General has noted and takes particular pleasure in bringing to
your attention the commendation of Lt. Lindsay and Sgts. Lopatin and Rapacz by the
Chief, Motion Picture Service Division, Headquarters, Army Air Forces."

A great deal of experimentation had been done by the 4th in an attempt to find
a satisfactory system for making combat motion pictures with 35mm motion picture cameras
mounted in fighter bomber aircraft. Gun camera footage of combat was often spectac-
ular, but because of its small size its quality was poor when enlarged from 16mm to
35mm. Various mounts were made, some to hold the camera in the air scoop, others in
the wing bomb rack, and finally just in front of the wing rack. Many difficulties had
to be overcome. There were often mechanical malfunctions, pilot errors in the system
of remote control. Finally, though, a satisfactory mount was worked out, and a crew
consisting of Capt. Madsen, Lts. Ostrander and Hanlon, and Sgts. Merkel, Childress,
Snider, Stindt, Thomas, and Wark joined the 365th Fighter Group at Metz, in order
to install and maintain the 35mm wing cameras. In addition this crew, with the A-20

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photo ship, made air to air and ground coverage of the activities of the 365th Group, and flew combat missions with the 'thunderbolts'. The 365th moved from Metz to ^AV-78 at Florennes, Belgium, a few days later, and the camera crew went with them, driving through a blizzard in order to do so. The crew spent nearly two months with this Group during which time valuable photographic record was made.

W/O Scheuerman, with Sgt. Davolt and Cpl. Luzena were also at ^AV-78, but were working with the 474th Fighter Group, photographing the P-30s and use of Napom bombs. Cpl. Luzena was in the field to work out the technical difficulties of the 35mm camera mounts.

Cpat. Browning, T/Sgt. King and Sgts. Wolber and Nelson were at Jarney, France, with the 493rd Air Service Team, making and experimenting with various camera mounts for P-47 aircraft. This was a time of extreme cold in the field. Units returning to Chantilly from the field by vehicle wore all the clothes they possessed, including fleece lined flying trousers, boots, and hooded jackets, but even with this protection any long ride was an ordeal. Roads were icy, as were airstrips. With a temporary thaw in mid-February, the mud was back. Those Units working at the front found that jeeps could no longer make their way through over roads made bottomless by heavy churning tanks. On the 20th of February Sgts. Evans and Kelley returned from the area they had been working near Tres Virges, Luxembourg and exchanged their jeep for a weapons carrier. Lt. Lindsay did the same, having drawn a new vehicle when he returned to Antwerp. With the roving Units every night presented a problem, as it meant finding shelter and a place for a fire wherever they were. This was sometimes difficult at the front, as all buildings were wrecked or occupied by advancing forces. Through this time, though, valuable experience was being gained, plus a profound respect for the Infantry and Armored units who were being photographed as they worked under extremely uncomfortable combat conditions.

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On February 9th, our navigator, 2nd Lt. Robert J. Hanlon, at last received his promotion to 1st Lt. (par 33, SO 40, 9 Feb. 1945), and Sgt. Louis F. Schadlich Jr., in recognition of good service in the supply department in spite of his love for the field work, was promoted to S/Sgt. (par 35, SO 46, 15 Feb. 1945).

Strength at the end of this month was 12 Officers and 30 Enlisted Men.

MARCH 1945

History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit

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March marked the cessation of normal photographic activities and coverage of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit. This coverage consisted of 35mm footage filmed on documentary, human interest, and newsworthy stories of Ninth Air Force activities. All had been photographed with black and white film, as directed by Air Force policy.

The coming of Special Film Project 186 meant a complete shift to color photography. It meant too, that a great deal of the material already shot in black and white would have to be refilmed in color. By March there was a feeling that the war was approaching its finish, and the pressure of time became more important. The 4th had hundreds of thousands of feet to photograph in order to adequately show the importance of the 9th Air Force in bringing the war to a close. This footage had to be completed before a deadline, which no one knew, that deadline being the surrender of the German Armies and the cessation of hostilities.

To coordinate the work and insure adequate coverage of these last weeks of the war, without duplication of such coverage and effort, required careful planning. Lt. Col. Owen E. Crump, commanding officer of Special Film Project 186, Lt. Col. Clothier and Major Robert S. Mack held numerous conferences with the directing officers of the Ninth Air Force, and outlines of the anticipated operations were prepared. Then in conferences among themselves it was decided how to best deploy cameramen and equipment available to obtain the photographic record needed. The months of combat experience of the personnel of the 4th were invaluable; through the war they had learned how to take care of themselves and operate efficiently. A system using small units of men in various localities and making them responsible only to the work had been evolved as the satisfactory operational procedure. The techniques and methods learned through long and sometimes bitter experience were thus available for Project 186 and in a large measure are responsible for the adequate coverage made in color between the 15th of March and the end of the War.

On 21 March 1945 a general meeting of all the personnel of the 4th Combat Camera Unit and SFP 186 was held at headquarters at Chantilly.

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At this time Lt. Col. Crump and Major Mack explained the change in type of coverage and plans for future operations. New equipment was available, which the men drew and became familiarized with. Sixteen camera crews were made up, and in short time these were on their way to every part of the western front, airfields and bomber groups scattered over France, Belgium, and Germany, and even to England to cover coordinated activities of the 8th Air Force and Royal Air Force.

A glance at the teams and their assignments will show the comprehensive approach made to the job to be done.

Team #1, composed of Lt. Col. Crump, Capt. Krasna, Capt. McGord, Sgt. Merkel and Sgt. Levitt, started a tour of the battle areas. It was originally planned that this team would scout for stories or events, and then place one of the roving teams to cover the particular stories discovered. This proved impractical, and it was found better to cover the material as they went along. Modern lightning warfare doesn't wait for camera crews to be placed. Team #1 proceeded to Gangway Advanced at Namur Belgium, then to Antwerp, Belgium in order to place team #13 consisting of T/Sgt. King and Cpl. Luzena for coverage of Ninth Air Defense Command's defense of that port against the enemy flying bomb attacks. Two days later, 27 March, the team drove on down through Holland to Maastricht, then into Germany to photograph the ruins of Aachen, Duren, Cologne, and that district, where the end of March found them.

Gun camera footage was most important for Project #186, and in order to obtain it in color, several teams were placed with 9th Air Force fighter groups. The duties of these teams were supervision of the loading of gun cameras in the planes with Kodachrome magazines, checking for proper function of the gun cameras, etc. In addition ground and serial material was shot on the activities of the Fighter Groups concerned, in order to have sufficient fill-in and human interest material. These teams included #2, Sgts. Rapacz, Nelson and Thomas, who were attached to the 366th Fighter Group at Y-29, near Asch, Belgium; team #3, Lt. Lindsay and Sgt. Wolber, who drove to the first American airstrip in Germany, Y-46, near Eschweiler, in order to cover the

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365th Fighter Group; team #7, with Lt. Johnson and Sgt. Lopatin, who moved to A-82 at Etain, France, to cover the 362nd Fighter Group; and team #16, with Cpls. Citron who was with the 354th Fighter Group at Roziers en Haye, France.

Another important phase of Ninth Air Force activities to be photographed was medium altitude bombardment. A great amount of excellent film on the Havocs and Marauders had been accumulated, but again it was black and white, so two teams were sent to film the same material in color. Team #9, under the command of W/O Scheuerman and including T/Sgt Childs, and Sgts. Snider and Mirabella, joined the 416th Bomb Group at Laon, France, in order to film the A-26 Invaders. Team #11, composed of Capt. Browning and Sgt. Voelker, both veterans of many medium missions, joined their old group, the 323rd, to photograph the B-26 Marauders. In both cases the coverage included flying the Groups' regular missions in order to photograph formations, "bombs away", target strikes, flak, and in general the experiences of the mediums. Ground coverage and human interest stories were again important. Both teams got excellent coverage.

A third important coverage to be made was that of direct air support or air coordination activities with the ground forces. Capt. Madsen, who had several months experience with the task, directed this coverage, thought, due to the nature of the rapid spearhead thrusts, communication was impossible, and each team was later on its own. As set up the ground support teams were as follows; team #5 with Capt. Madsen and Capt. Haglund, and Sgts. Killorin and Stindt, team #6 with Lt. Murphy and Sgt. Kelley, and team #15 with Capt. Carter and Sgt. Mainzer.

Team #5 proceeded to the Cologne area, where it split into two sub-teams. Capt. Madsen and Sgt. Killorin started from Cologne to catch the 3rd Armored Division, with whom Capt. Madsen had worked before, leaving Capt. Haglund and Sgt. Stindt to complete coverage in Cologne. Capt. Madsen and Sgt. Killorin crossed the Rhine river at the Remagen bridge, having learned that the 3rd Armored was near Rennerode, and made contact with the unit at Marburg. They were to continue to cover the 3rd's spearhead

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drive through the first three weeks of April. In the meantime Capt. Haglund and Sgt. Stindt were delayed while a camera was being returned to Chantilly for repairs, but as soon as it had been flown back, they proceeded to contact the 9th Armored Division of the First Army, which they did at Fritzlar.

Team #6, with Lt. Murphy and Sgt. Kelley, left Chantilly 22 March to join the 4th Armored Division, which they did as the latter was crossing the Rhine at Neritz, below Coblenz, and were to follow that Division's spearhead through April. In early March Lt. Murphy had covered the repeated enemy aerial attacks on the Remagen bridge with Major Criag and Sgt. Davolt.

Three other teams were formed out of the remaining members of the Unit and started operations during the last week of March. Team #8, which was commanded by Col. Clothier used one A-20 in photographing 8th Air Force activities, fighter and bomber formations, as well as Royal Air Force activities as related to the coordinated efforts of the Allied Air Forces. Col. Clothier had with him Sgt. Davolt, Lt. Whitehead as pilot, and Lt. Weaver as navigator. Team #14, which included Lt. Nerpel and Sgt. Garabrant as his L-5 pilot, spent the last of March with the 366th Fighter Group at Asch, until they were relieved by team #2, as already mentioned. They were to continue using the L-5 photo plane through April. The last team, #15, included Capt. Carter and Sgt. Mainzer, who spent the last week of March in the Cologne area on a roving assignment.

As can be seen, the number of teams insured comprehensive coverage of the important Ninth Air Force activities. A skeleton force was left at the headquarters of the 4th at Chantilly, in order to carry on the administrative, supply, camera repair, and related functions. At the same time SFP 186 maintained an office at Gangway Advanced, first at Namur and then at Weisbaden. These two offices coordinated activities arranged for the needs of the men in the field, directed coverage, etc. By the end of March, Camera teams were scattered all over the continent from Paris to the front. Great distances required a quick means of supply and facilities for picking up exposed film, mail delivery, etc. This problem was met by the assignment of two L-5,

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one C-64, and two additional A-20 aircraft to the 4th Combat Camera Unit. On 24 March, M/Sgt. Kenneth E. Garabrant was transferred into the Unit and on 28 March Major McCool, Capt. Bowman and Lts. Whitehead and Ayers were transferred to the Unit from the 9th Bomb Division to the crew the aircraft.

The close of March found the color project well under way. 19,650 feet of 16mm Kodachrome had been exposed, plus 6,460 feet of 35mm Monopack color film.

In addition, between 1 March and 15 March, when the old functions of the Unit were still being carried on, two film stories started the previous month had been completed, several others had been instituted and completed, and a total approximately 26,000 feet of 35mm black and white film exposed. One of the started in February was "Fighting Gator", a Ninth Air Force Fighter plane which, after completing 200 combat missions, was returned to the Zone of Interior. This coverage was continued to the departure of the plane from its home base to the United Kingdom, where it was disassembled for shipment. The original negative was sent to the ZI by courier for cutting into a story there. Also completed was the film story of Y-46, first American airstrip in Germany. This was covered in still and motion pictures by T/Sgt. Childs and Sgt. Killorin, and won the praise of the Chief of Staff, IX Engineer Command, expressed in a letter to this command.

Other stories completed during the first half of the month were:

1. Bomb damage in Duren, Aachen and Cologne areas, 1,700 feet.
2. Riviera Recreation Area, as used by Ninth Air Force Officers, 4,000 feet.
3. Defense of Antwerp from enemy flying bombs, 8,900 feet.
4. Use of aerial rockets fired from P-47s.
5. A Focke-Wulff captured at A-92 and repaired to be flown there, 1,900 feet.

Strength at the close of the month was 16 Officers and 34 Enlisted Men.

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APRIL 1945

History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit

April was a busy month for the 4th! The color project was well under way, and camera teams were in the field covering every phase of the closing months of the war. When any major city on the western front crumbled before the allies, it was almost certain that its fall was being recorded by Unit photographers. The mediums roaring out to bomb the last points of resistance in Europe carried our cameramen with them. Less spectacular assignments had to be manned, and were, such as those involving the loading of fighter bomber's gun cameras in order that the great part these lone airmen were playing would be recorded in color. Yes, April was a very full month, full of hard work over long hours, but also full of excitement and interest. Everyone knew he was seeing the end of the war. The German armies were reeling from knock-out blows. The end was in sight.

Probably the most exciting experiences in April were those had by the teams who were with the spearheading tanks of the Armored Divisions. The Unit had many fortunate escapes, and April was full of them. Capt. Madsen and Sgt. Killorin's experiences were no doubt the most hair raising of them all. This team, as may be recalled pushed off from Cologne in order to catch up with the 3rd Armored Division. They jeeped south and across the Rhine at Remagen, finally catching the Division at Marburg. The reunion with the 3rd was with friends who did everything to look after the 'Air Force Boys', and see that they had every opportunity to take pictures. The photographers were given a light tank, the fifth in the spearheading column. This was directly in front of the Air-Ground Control officer's tank, who in this case was Lt. Schneider of the 365th Fighter Group. The Air-Ground party officer was responsible for summoning and directing air support as needed by the advancing spearhead, and it was this activity that the cameramen were especially anxious to record.

The 3rd Armored Division continued its advance, probing and pushing its way to Paderborn and Uslar, pausing a day to take and clear the strongpoint of Nordhausen, then east through Sangerhausen and Eiselben. Halle was particularly reluctant to

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and the tanks by-passed it for the Infantry to clean out. By this time the cameramen had fallen into a routine system of operations, with Capt. Madsen continuing in the lead tanks while Sgt. Killorin drove the jeep farther back with the unarmored vehicles. Killorin sometimes arranged for a driver to take over the jeep, while he rode in the fourth tank in the column, a medium. On April 13, near the village of Wootin, the column ground to a stop in order to probe enemy positions. Sgt. Killorin set up the tripod of his camera beside his jeep, and had just started taking telephoto shot of the action of the lead tanks when the tripod exploded, having been hit by a sniper's bullet. The bullet ricocheted and ripped into his shoulder. Thus Jack Killorin became the second member of this Unit to receive the Purple Heart, Pfc. Aleen being the first, having had the Purple Heart awarded posthumously. Killorin wouldn't miss out on the fighting though, and so arrangements were made that he not be evacuated to a hospital. Medics said the wound was a clean one and that it wouldn't matter if the slug were not removed at once, so Jack transferred into an easier riding tank and continued with the advance.

On the night of April 16 the spearhead halted in the village of Thurland, preparing for a jump-off to Wittenburg. As was the custom, the officers and men made themselves comfortable in the houses of the village. Capt. Madsen, Lt. Schnieder and Sgt. Killorin being the only Air Corps men in the party, chose the same house. The night was dark but eventful, for before long a German unit had infiltrated and fierce hand to hand fighting developed. This was one of the few instances when Air Corps men have used their weapons on the ground. The house the men were in was attacked repeatedly, as the photographers crawled from room to room, firing at silhouettes outside their windows. Several grenades were thrown in, but with inconceivably good fortune always exploded in a room just vacated. Germans were killed within a few feet of the windows, as they crouched along the wall seeking cover. It was probably due to the double factors, ~~that~~ of confusion and darkness that the men were overlooked.

With morn^{men}ing the three Air Force ^{men} retired to the attic, where they could peer out

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between the broken tiles of the roof and see the condition of the town. It was completely in German hands. The enemy was busying ^{him} itself cleaning out the last groups of Americans scattered in the various buildings, and in starting and learning the operation of our tanks and vehicles. Further resistance was futile, of course, so Capt. Madsen, Lt. Schneider and Sgt. Killorin decided to try to hide until the Americans should retake the town. Lt. Schneider concealed himself upon one of the heavy beams, while the photographers hid in a storage bin. Unfortunately, the original owner of the house, accompanied by another civilian, came to the attic for some food, and Lt. Schneider, thinking they were discovered, hit the German on the head with the grip of his pistol. The other civilian fled and of course the alarm was spread that there were Americans in the house.

Lt. Schneider was anxious not to be taken prisoner, and decided to make a run for a nearby barn. On the way down the stairs, though, it was seen that a German soldier was coming towards the door with a 'burp gun'. Schneider had used all the ammunition in his pistol, but armed with a captured Luger, rushed the door, killing the German on his way out. He was shot as he tried to clear a fence, and died the following morning.

In the meantime, Capt. Madsen held the first German as hostage, making him understand, finally, that he should tell the German soldiers that the photographers would surrender. This was done and the cameramen were held as prisoners for twenty two hours, under shellfire, first in a courtyard and then in a basement. Their treatment as prisoners was good, though, except for a kick administered to both by a German soldier. The 3rd Armored Division sent a task force to rescue the survivors and prisoners, which fought its way to them, arriving at 2200 hours, 17 April.

Practically all of the photographic equipment and more valuable exposed film carried was destroyed by the enemy, but other than that the cameramen miraculously came through the experience with few ill effects. This might be argued by Sgt. Killorin, who has been trying the past three months to get QM issue of clothes, all

of which he lost during the incident!

It was necessary of course that Jack be given medical attention, so the team drove back to the 365th Fighter Group's base at Fritzlar, and contacted our headquarters. Lt. Ayers picked them up in an A-20 and returned Capt. Madsen to Advanced Headquarters at Weisbaden, and then flew Jack on to Chantilly, where he was hospitalized on the 25th of April.

This tale of the experiences of camera team #5 may not seem to warrant its inclusion in such detail in the Unit history, but it is valuable to show the experiences had by war photographers.

The other teams with Armored Divisions were busy too, during April. Capt. Haglund and Sgt. Stindt left Cologne and followed the 9th Armored Division, catching it near Fritzlar. They were with the spearhead units of the Division during the thrust through the heart of Germany. Both were awarded the Bronze Star by the Commanding General of the 9th Armored Division for their photographic coverage, which exposed them to great personal danger. Stindt's knowledge of German language came in handy on many occasions, once in particular when the two Americans jeeped into a town to find that it had been bypassed by the tanks, and still had a number of German troops within it. Skidding to a stop in the town square, Stindt, through fast talking, convinced the German Colonel there that he should surrender his troops to them as the American Army was all around them. This the Colonel did!

Capt. Haglund and Sgt. Stindt were with the 9th Armored Division and the 69th Infantry Division through their drive between the Mulde and Elbe rivers. They were active in helping free some 25,000 Allied POWs in that area, and on the 24th of April had the great experience of being the first photographers and first Air Force men to meet the Russians. They report an instantaneous party resulted, and the rest of the Unit are impatiently waiting to see their film, to learn how Vodka and Kodachrome mix!

During the same period, Lt. Murphy and Sgt. Kelley, team #6, were chasing along with the 4th Armored Division, in its advance in the south. All teams on the

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ground had the same sort of experiences, felt the rush, rush, of these last crushing weeks of the war. Having crossed the Rhine at Neritz in late March, team #6 stayed with the spearheading units of the 4th Armored all the way into Chemnitz, where through agreement with the Russians they withdrew west of the city and settled down to an inactive status. Lt. Murphy and Sgt. Kelley returned to Advanced Headquarters for film, arriving there 28 April, and left the following day to join the 11 Armored Division, which was still active.

Having less excitement during April, the camera teams with the Fighter Groups were none the less busy. The Groups were constantly moving during this time, it seemed that main parties no sooner caught up with a group at a newly prepared base, than the advanced party would be off for the next move.

Team #2, which was with the 366th Fighter Group at Asch, Belgium only two weeks then moved to Y-94 at Munster, Germany. Team #3, with Lt. Lindsay and Sgt. Wolber left with the 365th Fighter Group when it moved from Y-46 to a splendid base at Fritzlar. There they made routine ground coverage, and serviced the gun cameras until operations for the 9th TAC came to a halt during the end of the month. Team #7 moved with the 362nd Fighter Group from Etain, France to Y-73 at Frankfurt, where they were to remain until May 1st. Facilities were poor at Frankfurt, and it took some time for this group to make themselves comfortable. Toward the end of April this group also found its work finished in the area in which it had been giving support. This meant that the work was completed for team #7. The 25th of April, though, team #8, with Lt. Col. Clothier and Sgt. Davolt, returned with an A-20 from England, where they had been working with the RAF and 8th Air Force, and started photographing P-47 formations and activities with the 362nd Fighter Group. Team #7 joined with Team #8 for the rest of April. Team #16, with Sgt. Topjian and Cpl Citron, spent April with the 354th Fighter Group, or it might better be said following it, as on the 1st of April it moved from A-98 to R-64 at Mainz, Germany, only to leap-frog to R-45 at Nuremberg about the middle of the month. As with all the Fighter Groups, the 354th was having trouble in keeping within reasonable operating distance of rapidly moving

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Lt. Nerpel and M/Sgt. Garabrant took their L-5 to the 30th Air Depot Group at Beauvais, France, where they spent a week in installing camera mounts, a 35mm motor driven camera under each wing, and controls in the cockpit. These were adjustable as to elevation, and made it possible to shoot both forward and backward, while another camera mounted in the plane itself shot laterally. This was a very efficient little camera ship, and proved itself valuable for purposes of photographing bomb damage in cities, marshalling yards, destroyed bridges, etc. As soon as the installation was complete, they returned to Chantilly, and from there proceeded to the Rhine front, where they busily photographed the Rhine cities as they fell, bridges, and general operations. On 15th April, with a Lt. Stanley as pilot, Lt. Nerpel was flying very low over the Rhine river, photographing sunken barges, when the plane hit a low cable stretched across the river. In spite of a split propeller and pieces of cable wrapped around the wing, they were able to avoid crashing and made a successful landing. After the plane had been repaired, aerial coverage was made of the Buchenwald concentration camp. On 22nd April, S/Sgt. Charles R. Cast was transferred into the Unit from the 173rd Liaison Squadron as a Liaison pilot, and on the 26th, S/Sgt. Francis E. Southey was transferred in, also as a Liaison pilot. M/Sgt. Garabrant was transferred to the 70th Reinforcement Depot for return to the ZI. Thus the Unit had pilots for each of its Liaison planes.

Other changes in flying personnel during the month of April were as follows: 2nd Lt. Robert S. Ayers was promoted to 1st Lt. on the 3rd; 1st Lt. Ostrander was sent to the ZI for rest and recuperation. Lt. Ostrander had completed over 50 combat missions with the 416th Bomb Group before joining our outfit.

The two teams with the medium bombers were very busy during April. Team #9 were collecting missions with the 416th Bomb Group Invaders. The team was assigned a special A-26 for its own use. On missions the photo plane carried bombs, and at the IP joined the formation to make the bomb run, but at all other times it could glide in and about at the photographer's wish, and excellent coverage of the A-26s resulted. Capt. Browning and Sgt. Voelker were happily working with their favorite air-

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craft and familiar group, the B-26s of the 323rd. On one mission their formation was attacked by a force of the new jets that had been making the flyers' nervous by their antics just out of gun range. The attack was very costly, and both of Capt. Browning's wing ships were lost. The plane in which he was riding was torn by bullets from nose to tail, but was able to make it back over the American lines. The Unit's luck held. Lt. Hynes, also a veteran of over 50 B-26 missions, returned from rest leave at home the 18th of April, and joined team #11 with the B-26s. In less than two months, these two teams, by flying a great number of missions, were able to film complete coverage in color, of the important part Ninth Bomb Division was doing in crushing the enemy.

Team #1, during April, photographed the ruins of Cologne, then moved up the Rhine to Coblenz, covered the laying of protective smoke screens over the Mainz bridge, and were in Frankfurt the morning it fell. Five days were spent in and around Frankfurt making routine coverage of the area. Near Frankfurt a story was made on a Luftwaffe test pilot who flew a new jet plane, ME 262, to American territory, and landed it intact. The test pilot was a Belgian and had attempted to escape before. The team then moved to Kassel, where Lt. Col. Crump became ill, and returned to Advanced Headquarters at Luxembourg. While there a visit by General of the Armies Arnold was covered, after which another whirlwind tour visited a number of PW camps, and the atrocity camp at Weimar. Sgt. Merkel returned to our headquarters and on the 26th resumed his duties as Sergeant Major.

Team 13, T/Sgt. King and Cpl. Luzena, found that they were a little late for the V-bomb attacks on Antwerp. It stopped about the time they arrived. After a week in that area they drove to Luxembourg to work with Major Mack, where they participated in the Arnold Story. They then opened the new headquarter at Weisbaden, after which several new strips being constructed by 9th Engineering Command was photographed. The end of April found them on their way back to Chantilly.

Strength of the Unit at this time was 16 Officers and 31 Enlisted Men.

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MAY 1945

History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit

May saw the climax of the five year struggle in Europe, the end of the war. The collapse of the German Armies offered types of film coverage never before available. The very joy of civilians in the capitals of Europe upon learning that that the war had ended had to be recorded. At last the Unit was photographing things and people who were neither going to kill or be killed, which was an entirely new kind of assignment. This was what we had all been hoping and praying for, what all soldiers had been hoping and praying for, that day for which a billion people had awaited with anxiety and worry wrenched hearts. This was the biggest story the 4th could ever have,

By the first of May nearly all Ninth Air Force combat activities had ceased. Notices appeared in war and briefing rooms, simply stating, "After 2400 hours, 28 April, 'X' Group will cease combat operations". The notices really meant 'the war is over, fellows, you have finished the big job'. By the first of May most of the Camera teams with fighter and bomber groups were being called in and sent to the front, or towards cities in the rear. The last great days were here.

Advanced Headquarters were with the Ninth Air Force Headquarters at Weisbaden, Germany, and it was from there that the teams were directed. Teams were broken up and rearranged in May in order to best utilize personnel.

Capt. Haglund and Sgt. Stindt, who as a part of team 5 had been collecting footage, Purple Hearts, and Bronze Stars with the 9th Armored and 69th Infantry Divisions, at last appeared at headquarters at Weisbaden on the 5th of May with interesting stories of their experiences. Stindt didn't have much time to relate them, though, as Major Mack and he left 6 May to Munich and Dachau, where they spent V-E Day, photographing the spontaneous celebrations of the freed prisoners. Several days were required to make a complete photographic record of the indescribable conditions in the camp, a most valuable, if unpleasant, assignment. Continuing on through Bavaria, the team made a complete coverage of Hitler's home and hideout at the BERCHTESGADEN, which required about five days.

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Two days were spent photographing the ruins of the Nazi shrines in and around Munich, then ba^ck to Dachau and on to Headquarters at Weisbaden.

Lt. Murphy and Sgt. Kelley, consituting team six, had reurned to Weisbaden from their work with the 4th Armored Division the 28th of April, and on the 29th they left with a new stock of film to join the 11th Armored Division at Regensburg. With this division they passed southeast throught the Austrian Alps, and were surprised to be in snow storms much of the time. The end of the war found them at Lenz, and as they were only sixty miles from Vienna, they decided to go to that city. They had not considered the German army, though, while making plans, and a few miles out of Lenz, they ran into it, as it approached in its wild flight to the American lines. Roads were choked with tanks, trucks, artillery pieces, every kind of military vehicle and weapon. Lt. Murphy and Sgt. Kelley were unable to proceed with their plan, but did have a marvelous opportunity to photograph the armies on their way to lay down their arms.

Lt. Lindsay and Sgt. Wolber closed up shop at Fritzlar and reported to Headquarters at Weisbaden May 5th. The next morning they started to the Eighth Corps area near Chemnitz, as it seemed likely that large units of the German army would try to escape to the Americans in this area. In order to have facilities for aerial coverage, arrangements were made for S/Sgt. Southey and Sgt. Thomas to meet team number 3 at the field near Altenburg on the first clear day. After checking through Eighth Corps Headquarters at Zuelenroda it was decided that the 84th Division would probably be receiving the incoming Germans, so arrangements were made to stay with that Division at Falkenstein. The cameramen were there when the war ended. Because of shattered communications and disorganization, the German units were unable to know that the war was over, but they soon found out when our firing ceased and tanks with loudspeakers lumbered toward their lines, blaring out the news. This area, in the mountainous border of Czechoslovakia, was rough and beautiful, but roads were narrow and winding, and were soon engulfed with incoming Ger-

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mans. We had guessed right, they were avoiding the Russians advancing to their rear by swarming towards the American lines. Photographs coverage was made as the Germans came, individually, and in units, walking, in convoys of tanks, busses, trucks, and wagons. Any form of transportation was utilized in the rush to the Americans. The photographers went into German territory and photographed the armed units coming to surrender, then followed them through their disarming and installation in prison camps. This was an interesting experience, meeting the enemy we had fought, this time as man to man. Soon there were so many that the Americans were unable to handle them, and road blocks were put up and machine guns manned in order to prevent the Germans from forcing their way into our territory. Several German Generals were put in charge of the prisoners, and orderly camps were established in grassy meadows.

Fortunately the light held clear and bright during the period of the mass surrender. The plane was used to scout out and photograph the large units of surrendering Germans, and ground coverage would then be made on the same units. These days were full of experiences the cameramen will never forget.

Lt. Nerpel, with an L-5 photo plane was working in the area of Moosburg during the first part of May, and on the 7th, while photographing the release of allied prisoners of war, the plane crashed on the take-off. It was repaired by S/Sgt. Cast, and later in the month Lt. Nerpel with S/Sgts. cast and Southey, made a long L-5 tour which included making damage records of STUTTGART, REGENSBURG, WEIMAR, MAGDEBURG, BREMEN, HAMBURG, BREMERHAVEN, WILHELMSHAVEN, MUNSTER and ANTWERP, after which they returned to Bad Kissengen.

Team number 2 was working with GSAP cameras with the 366th Fighter Group, and about May 1st they closed up and returned to Weisbaden. Team number 7, with Lt. Johnson and S/Sgt. Lopatin, were working with Lt. Col. Clothier and the 362nd Fighter Group. On 1 May the group moved to R-10 at Illesham, but no combat missions were flown from this field. On 10th May it moved again, this time to R-68 at Strau-

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bing. Team 7 returned to Chantilly 18 May.

On V-E Day camera teams were busy photographing the celebrations of civilians in the Capitals of Europe. On May 8th and 9th, groups from headquarters at Chantilly were busy in Paris recording the joy there. About the 1st of May team number 9, including W/O Scheuerman, T/Sgt. Childs, and Sgt. Mirabella and Snider, completed their work with the A-26s and the 416th Bomb Group, and they, with the exception of Sgt. Mirabella, started north to join and cover the activities of the British 21st Army Group. They first went to Antwerp, and arrived at Arnheim on May 7th, where they heard of the end of the war. The following day they continued on and contacted a Canadian Unit which was going to push on into Holland, and leaving Apeldoorn the next day, they proceeded to Amsterdam. The photographers report their most vivid memories are of the crowds of millions of welcoming civilians who lined every road, loading the vehicle with flowers and cheering in their joy of liberation. Two days were spent in Amsterdam, during which time the cameramen were able to see the result of the long German occupation. Some of the sights were not pleasant, for example that of human beings starving in the streets. Fuel was gone, and civilians had been shot while trying to steal wooden paving blocks from along tram tracks. From Amsterdam team nine went on to Hague, where documentary films were made of a section of the residential district which was bombed out March 12. Three thousand civilians had been killed in 12 minutes when RAF bombers had missed their targets. All transportation in Holland had completely broken down. There was no food in the cities, and no way to bring it in from the country. People were riding bicycles without tires or with tires made of wood.

At last, though, the stories were completed, and tired cameramen returned to Chantilly, or to Weisbaden to leave vehicles and equipment and fly back to Chantilly. Several of the men had not had a 48 hour pass since before Christmas, and as the teams came in, they were given rests in Paris. There was a feeling of very definite accomplishment within the group. Their job was finished.

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As of May 17 1945 119,432 feet of Kodachrome and Monopack color film had been exposed for Special Film Project number 186. This was the record of the end of the war. Also, members of the 4th Combat Camera Unit had flown over 600 combat sorties, all but eight members having participated. Air Medal Ribbons are in a class with Good Conduct Ribbons in the Unit! The many sorties were flown with a loss of two cameramen, Lt. John L. Smith, who went down in a B-26 while flying with the 322nd Bomb Group in February 1944, and Pfc. Byron K. Allen, who lost his life in a parachute jump from a flak riddled A-20 on 5th of August 1944. Because of the compactness of the Unit, these losses were felt bitterly by every member of the Unit; at the same time all realize that only phenomenal luck has held our casualties so low.

After the close of the war all were busy getting ready for the move from Chantilly, France, to Bad Kissengen, Germany. Capts. Madsen and Scheid flew to Advanced Headquarters at Weisbaden, and there picked up a vehicle, with which they drove to Bad Kissengen and arranged for a building to serve as the new 4th Headquarters. Capt. Scheid returned to Chantilly, and Capt. Madsen, with a detail of men, prepared the new headquarters for the occupancy by the Unit.

On 19 May the Unit was happy when it learned of Sgt. Ira O. Welborn's good fortune in being able to return home. Sgt. Welborn had served as a Photographer, Unit writer and historian, but while his loss was felt, all were glad that he was at last able to return to his Mississippi. Authority was SPO #132, dated 12 May 1945.

Lt. Ostrander was on temporary duty in the States for a rest and on 13th of May was dropped from Unit strength, authority being teletype M-299-C, Hq. 9th Air Force.

Perhaps the event of most interest to the 4th Combat Camera Unit during the month of May was the compilation of adjusted service ratings! At last interim scores and credit values had been announced, and at any time or place a cameraman could be found mulling over a column of figures marked 'months service', 'Months overseas service', 'Air Medal and clusters', 'kids', etc, etc,. Points were the chief, and for a while about the only topic of conversation! A steady stream of soldiers was in and out of

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the orderly room , checking, checking, until the Adjutant and the 1st Sgt. were counting points in their sleep! At last a list was prepared. All were gratified to find that after additional credits would be added, pending awards, battle stars, etc., nearly all the men would have at least the necessary eighty-five points. A list of the Enlisted Personnel and their points as of May 12 follows:

Buscaino	88
Cast	41
Childress	79
Childs	85
Davolt	103
Citron	48
Evans	96
Hurst	45
Killorin	90
Kelley	66
King	75
Lopatin	71
Lory	39
Luzena	57
Mainzer	68
Merkel	75
Mirabella	90
Mongini	77
Nelson	81
Rapacz	78
Schadlich	58
Snider	77
Stindt	71
Southey	55
Toth	81
Thomas	92
Topjian	86
Voelker	103
Wark	70
Wolber	99

Nearly all personnel have other awards yet to be added to their score, such as Oak Leaf Clusters, and Battle Stars.

Strength at the end of the month was 15 Officers and 32 Enlisted Men.

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JUNE 1945

History of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit

June saw a major move of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit. The buildings at Bad Kissengen, which Capt. Madsen and a crew had spent late May in making ready, were occupied. The move was in three parts. Capt. Madsen and several enlisted men brought the first vehicles and equipment from the advanced headquarters at Weisbaden. The major portion of the freight was flown up from Chantilly on the 1st of June, using seven C-47 aircraft. Our own A-20s and C-64 brought men and equipment to their new home. Finally, on the morning of 3 June the last of the Unit departed from Chantilly, via motor convoy consisting of those vehicles not already at Bad Kissengen. This party arrived at Bad Kissengen at 1200 hours on the 5th of June.

In spite of the uncertainty of the future, Major Mack decided to set up for any type of photographic operations. The task was not a small one. Electric current used by the equipment was of three different types, and arrangements were made for all three to be brought into the building. An excellent projection room was built in what had formerly been a photographic studio. This was constructed as a dual purpose room, with heavily draped walls which adapted it for sound recording. The projection room is perhaps the most popular department in the unit, as it is here that rushes are viewed to see just how the work, or particular projects, are coming out. In addition the other regular functional departments were allotted space and set up, these including Orderly rooms, Supply, Transportation, Captioning, Camera Repair and Supply, day rooms for Officer and Em, 16mm editing and cutting, and film vaults constructed in the basements. In addition special film project 186 had a set of offices in the same building. Such installations took nearly the whole month of June, as regular operations often interrupted the work.

For over a year the Unit had maintained a laboratory detachment with the Olympic Laboratories in London. This was convenient while the Unit had been in England, and was the only arrangement possible until the commercial laboratories in Paris could become operational. After that, it was decided that in order to eliminate the

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long film courier flights, the laboratory detachment should be moved to Paris. Arrangements were made with the Laboratoire Cinematographique Modern, Rue Pasture, for the Laboratory processing to be carried on there, and necessary changes were made for the housing of our film.

Contracts with the Olympic Laboratories expired 15 June, 45 and on that date all the cutting, editing and other equipment, as well as the film library itself, was moved by two C-47s to Bad Kissengen. This was perhaps the first time complete motion picture facilities had ever been moved entirely by air, and proved the feasibility of future complete mobile production units housed in two such aircraft.

S/Sgt. Saeta and Cpl. Moore were left in London where they maintained the offices at 40 Upper Brook St., London, for the purpose of Liaison with the Eastman Laboratories who were processing Kodachrome film for Special Film Project 186. These men also had additional duties, including searching R.A.F. and other film libraries for Color film of interest to the same project.

The strong interest in 'points' had not abated, and unexpectedly on 9th June, the great day arrived!! A telephone call from Ninth Air Force Headquarters requested that the three enlisted men with the highest Service Rating record be prepared for transfer to the ZI, The following day. Sgt. Davolt, who had a score of 108 points was in England on assignment with Col. Clothier, but he was contacted by phone and a plane was sent for him. The other two lucky men, Sgts. Voelker and Evans, with 118 and 106 points respectively, were soon busily packing their equipment. Finally the three were off to the 70th RCD, per authority of par 1, SO 160, off to home and that long awaited discharge. Naturally the interest in point scores was more intense than ever. Newly announced battle participation credits were added, and records were rechecked to make certain that all credits had been counted. A list of the enlisted men's individual scores as of June 10th is included.

In the meantime, even with a move and the excitement of points, normal photographic activities were being carried on. Special Film Project 186 had arranged to enter Berlin as soon as Americans were permitted there. On the 20th of June, Sgts.

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Kelley, Killorin, Wolber and Thomas were sent to Weimar with officers of SFP 186 for TD with the Public Relations Party, Berlin District, and from there proceeded to Berlin. There coverage was made of damage, entry of American and British Forces, etc.

On 4th June Capt. Scheid and Sgt. Stindt went to Munich and other parts of Southern Bavaria in a search of colored motion picture film showing the various cities and districts of Germany as they existed before the war, and also like film showing combat or damage caused by the allies at the time it happened. Broadcasts were made for such film from Radio Munich. The trip took about three weeks.

On 14th June Lt. Lindsay, T/Sgt. King and Sgt. Killorin went to the Volkenrode Air Research Institute near Braunschweig, to photograph their installations, as instructed by teletype from SHAEF. Aerial and ground coverage was made in motion pictures and stills. The job required eight days, as there were a great many buildings, laboratories, wind tunnels, etc., where experimental work on all types of aircraft and jet propulsion and rocket weapons had continued uninterrupted until a few weeks before the end of the war. In order to insure transportation there, the trip was made by vehicle, and aerial coverage was completed on a subsequent one day trip.

On June 20, Capts. Madsen and Knudtson made a trip to the Agfa plant at Wolfen, Germany, in search of more colorful films showing conditions in Germany before and during the war. They were successful in finding much film, and arranging for the acquisition of more later.

The most ambitious project for June was that of the 26th, when a very complete coverage was filmed of some sixty-four P-47 aircraft of the 371st Fighter Group, as they practised strafing and fire bombing of a German village and Pillbox. Medics, Bomb Disposal and Fire Fighting Units were on the scene in case of an accident, but fortunately there were none, and the show netted much good footage.

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Service Rating Scores, Enlisted Personnel, 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit, as of

10 June 1945:

Mirabella	110
Wolber	109
Saeta	98
Snider	107
Thomas	107
Killorin	105
Childs	105
Toth	101
Lopatin	101
Topjian	96
Childress	94
Friedman	94
Nelson	91
Rapacz	98
Merkel	90
King	85
Wark	85
Mainzer	83
Luzena	82
Kelley	81
Stindt	81
Mongini	77
Schadlich	78
Southey	77
Hurst	70
Citron	68
Moore	55
Cast	51
Lory	49

Strength at the end of this month was 15 Officers and 29 Enlisted Men.

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R E S T R I C T E D

HISTORY OF THE 4TH AAF COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

July 1945

Early in July the pressure of photographic duties felt during the preceeding months began to lessen. Several officers and men were in Berlin, where the footage completing Special Film Project 186 was being filmed. This included the general war damage of that area, the formal occupation of the American Zone by American troops, and later the arrival of personnel concerned with the Allied Conferences being held there.

Upon the completion of the Berlin material the personnel of Special Film Project 186 returned to Headquarters, 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit, where their equipment and film was packed and boxed. From there they returned to the Z.I. The completion of this project relieved a number of men for normal duties with this organization. It also ended the necessity for several aircraft and air and ground crew members. The no longer essential men were transferred out of the organization, when possible, to the Zone of Interior.

On 6 July, Capt Scheid, Lts Ayers and Weaver, and Sgt Wark flew to the United Kingdom for a period of temporary duty in London, where final disposition of film and other matters pertaining to our laboratory there was made. As a result of engine trouble with the A-20 aircraft, Capt Scheid returned 13 July by courier, while the crew members remained to make repairs--returning with the aircraft 17 July.

Lt Lindsay and Sgt Stindt left 7 July for Kaufbeuren, Bavaria, to film a mental institution which had been continuing questionable practices some weeks after Allied Occupation. The reports were found to be exaggerated, but film coverage was made and the two returned 9 July.

On 7 July a photographic team consisting of Major Mack, Capt Bowman, Lt Hanlon, and Sgts. Cast, Childress, and Southey departed by air for Berlin, to complete the motion picture coverage there and arrange for the return of our personnel on TD in that area. On 7 July S/Sgt Paul R. Sanchez was placed on TD with this Unit for a period of ten days from HQ & Hq Sqdn, 10th Air Depot Gp.

On 13 July, S/Sgt Charles R. Cast departed enroute to join Casual Pool, 7th Reinforcement Depot(AAF) Stn 594, for return to the Z.I. (par 27, SO 191, Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 10 July 45). Sgt Cast was one of the L-5 Liaison Pilots who had been working with three mounted 35mm cameras in his plane, turning in exceptional results. Critical illness of his mother was the reason he was released first among the pilots.

Major Mack returned from TD in Berlin on the 15 July, and two days later S/Sgt Southey ferried the L-5 Aircraft used by Sgt Cast in Berlin back to Bad Kissingen.

17 July, one of the Unit's expert sound cameramen returned to the Z.I. for discharge because of age. T/Sgt James V. King departed enroute to join the Casual Pool, 70th Reinforcement Depot(AAF) Stn 385 (par 14, SO 195, Hq, Ninth AF) 14 Jul 45.

Thus the 4th became weaker as we lost more and more officers and men. It seemed that some sort of farewell party was going on every evening. While those returning home were anxious to be on their way, and those remaining here were glad for

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the opportunities the others had to get home, there was still a definite feeling of emptiness as one after another...the old friends left. The 4th Combat Camera is a small Unit....a special kind of Unit. At one time or another everyone had worked with everybody else, on some little team photographing a special activity. Fun, excitement, discomfort, and danger had been shared with these buddies. It was hard seeing them off, knowing that the "gang" would never be together again.

On 20 July, 2nd Lt Earl L. Shurmer was assgd and joined the Unit (par 11 SO 199 Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 18 July 1945).

Lt Walter A. Whitehead, the newest A-20 pilot, left the organization for the 362nd Fighter Group on 22 July (par 19 SO 196 Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 15 July 1945). At the same time the navigator of his crew, 1st Lt Foy R. Weaver, departed enroute to join the Casual Pool, 70th Reinforcement Depot, for return to the Z.I. (par 37 SO 199 Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 18 July 1945). Lt Weaver was a most popular member of our group of "birdmen". Because of the reduction of work it was considered unnecessary to retain more than one flight crew for A-20's.

On 25 July, the Unit's acting First Sergeant, S/Sgt Elmer H. Merkel, was promoted to the grade of T/Sgt (SO 10, Hq, 4th Combat Camera Unit dtd 21 July 1945).

Capt Charles L. Bowman, the UC-64 Pilot, departed on 28 July to join the Casual Pool, 70th Reinforcement Depot (par 17 SO 206 Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 25 July 1945) for return to the Z.I.

On 29 July, Capt Frederic L. Knudtson, Technical Officer who had always been closely associated with the Unit, being in charge of Film Editing at its London and Paris Labs, was assigned and joined from Hq & Hq Sqdn (par 8 SO 207 Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 26 July 1945).

S/Sgt Francis E. Soutney, L-5 Liaison pilot, departed on 31 July enroute to join the 112th Liaison Squadron (par 15 SO 207 Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 27 Jul 45). Thus our "air force" was reduced to one pilot, navigator, and crew chiefs! On the same day, Lt Lindsay and Sgt Killorin departed for TD in Paris to cover the Air Exposition being opened by the American Army Air Forces there that day at the Eiffel Tower.

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HISTORY OF THE 4TH AAF COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

Month of July, 1945

1. Negative

2. Strength, 31 July 1945. Total Strength: 42

Officers:

Major	1
Capt	5
1st Lt	7
2nd Lt	1
CWO	1
	<hr/>

Total Officers 15

Enlisted:

M/Sgt	1
T/Sgt	2
S/Sgt	4
Sgt	13
Cpl	6
Pfc	<hr/> 1

Total EM 27

3. Negative

4. Negative

5. Negative

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

HISTORY, 4TH AAF COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

AUGUST 1945:

By the first of August the activities of the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit were mainly concerned with preparations to cease normal activities. During July the personnel had been sharply reduced, and this reduction continued through August. At the end of August only a skeleton crew remained.

The color project, Special Film Project 186, had been completed in July. In as much as it was uncertain how long the Unit would continue to function, Major Mack decided that coverage of important air force activities in the Theater should continue in 35mm black and white. Thus small camera teams were assigned various projects, for example one team went south to film the Special Services Athletic Activities in the meets at Nuremburg; another team covered the I & E Program of the Ninth Air Force; and still another was given the assignment of recording the disposition of enemy equipment by the Air Disarmament program. Comprehensive coverage was made of the ambitious Army Air Forces Exposition held under the Eiffel Tower, and early in the month the Unit was off to a good start of again recording the activities of the Ninth Air Force.

While these plans were soon being carried out, it was not long before factors arose making their completion impossible. Enlisted men were being removed from the Unit in large numbers for return to the Z.I. under the Point System. Requests from Washington resulted in the transfer of several officers. Units in the field had to be speedily returned in order that their members be available for shipment. Then orders came that normal activities would cease, and the Unit would prepare for shipment as a Category II Unit (Indirect). All remaining personnel were soon busy with checking, packing, and disposing of equipment. Extra vehicles were turned in, those to be retained were put in best condition. The date of departure from this station was to be on/or about 26 August, but the end of the war in Japan apparently resulted in the Unit's removal from that shipment number, as we were informed four days before our scheduled departure. Thus there was confusion in activities, but the end of the month found the few remaining members of the Fourth ready to go.

On 1 Aug. Major Mack, Capt Scheid, and Lts Ayers and Hanlon flew the Wall Sound camera to Paris, in order to make sound pictures of the Air Forces Exposition. This project was accomplished and the crew returned 4 August. Sgt Killorin, who with Lt Lindsay was making normal news reel coverage of the Exposition, as well as recreational facilities in Paris, was called back to Bad Kissingen on 5 August, for shipment to the States.

On 4 August Capt A.R.Madsen and CWO C.B.Scheuerman were relieved from assignment and departed for Casual Pool, 70th Reinforcement Depot (AAF) Stn 392 per par 5b, SO 212, Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 31 July 1945--for return to Z.I. for reassignment in accordance with a request from Washington.

A large group of high point enlisted men departed 6 August to join AAF/ETO Reinforcement Depot (Prov) per par 1 & 2, SO 217, Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 5 Aug 45. This group included M/Sgt Nicholas F. Toth, S/Sgt John Killorin, S/Sgt Benjamin Saeta, and Sgts Pasquale A. Mirabella, Sherman J. Snider, William R. Thomas, and Robert A. Wolber.

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For several months three members of the organization had been on special temporary duty with the Field Photo Branch of Office of Strategic Services. They returned to duty during the first of August: Capt Browning and Lt Hynes on 6 August, and T/Sgt Childs on 7 August.

On 8 August Capt Browning, Lt Hynes, and Sgt Stindt departed for Munich to photograph Air Disarmament activities there, but were recalled to return on the 14th in order to prepare for shipment.

On 9 August our last remnant from Berlin reported in from Temporary Duty to Duty. Sgts Kelly and Lopatin had returned by vehicle.

Lt Lindsay returned to duty from TD in Paris on 16 August. On the same day T/Sgt Harold A Childs was released from assignment and transferred to AAF/ETO Reinforcement Depot for return to Z.I. (par 1 SO 228, Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 16 Aug 45. Cpls Harold Citron and William W Moore were released from assignment and attached unassigned to the Casual Pool, AAF/ETO Reinforcement Depot (par 6 SO 225, Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 13 Aug 45--for return to the Z.I. for reassignment.

At this time the 4th AAF Combat Camera Unit was scheduled for return to the Z.I. as a Category II Unit for Indirect Redeployment, and for this reason was to be used as a vehicle for the return of additional personnel. As a result, on 22 August, Cpls Gerald K Cain and Roy A Mann were attached and joined from Hq & Hq Sqdn, Ninth Air Force, and on 23 August, S/Sgt Thomas E Carter, Sgt Morris Levy, Cpls Norris Hobbie, and Charles R. Wessman were attached and joined from 90th Station Complement pending assignment.

Capt Philip Browning and 1st Lt Jack T. Hynes, having completed over a tour of combat missions, were found eligible for return to the Z.I. on R & R, and on 24 Aug they were released from asgmt & atch usasgd to AAF/ETO Reinforcement Depot(Prov) AAF Stn 594 (par 19, SO 233 Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 21 August 1945.

Lt. Robert J. Hanlon was released from assignment on 24 Aug, and atch unassigned to Casual Pool, AAF/ETO Reinforcement Depot(Prov) par 7, SO 231, Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 19 Aug 45--for return to the Z.I. on R & R. Also on this date Lt William T. Ewell went on TD to Paris for 3-days to close out the Motion picture film processing contracts that this Organization had with L.C.M.

On 26 August Lt Lindsay and Cpl Mongini departed for Foggia, Italy for purposes of film survey of the Casey Jones Project.

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R E S T R I C T E D

HISTORY OF THE 4TH AAF COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

Month of August, 1945

1. Negative.
2. Strength, 31 August 1945. Total Strength: 31

Officers:

Major	1
Captain	2
1st Lt.	5
2nd Lt.	<u>1</u>

Total Officers 9

Enlisted:

T/Sgt	1
S/Sgt	4
Sgt	8
Cpl	7
Pfc	<u>2</u>
EM	22

Total 31

3. Negative
4. Negative
5. Awards to Unit personnel:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL:

Major Robert S. Mack, (GO 153, I, Hq, Ninth Air Force dtd 5 Aug 45)
1st Lt George E. Lindsay)
S/Sgt Ralph Lopatin) G.O. 163, 1, Hq, Ninth Air Force
Sgt Henry S. Rapacz) dtd 20 August 1945
Sgt LaMoine Wark)
Cpl Wilbur R. Hurst)
Cpl Verl E. Luzena)

AIR MEDAL, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

1st Lt. George E. Lindsay, (par 6, G.O. 159, Hq Ninth Air Force
dtd 11 August 1945)

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11 Oct 1945 -
30 Nov 45

HISTORY OF THE 14TH AAF COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

Month of October 1945

1. Organizational Changes: Negative

2. Strength, 31 October 1945 Total Strength: 43

Officers:

Major	4
1st Lt	<u>1</u>

Total O. 5

Enlisted Men:

M/Sgt	2
T/Sgt	1
S/Sgt	12
Sgt	12
Opl	8
Pfc	2
Pvt	<u>1</u>

Total EM 38

3. Movements: Negative

4. Losses: Negative

5. Awards to Unit Personnel: Negative

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HISTORY OF THE 4th AAF COMBAT CAMERA UNIT

Month of November 1945

1. Organizational Changes: None
2. Strength, as of 14 November 1945* Total Strength: 47

Officers:

Lt Col	2
Major	6
Capt	3
1st Lt	1
2nd Lt	<u>1</u>
	13

Enlisted Men:

M/Sgt	1
T/Sgt	2
S/Sgt	4
Sgt	15
Cpl	11
Pfc	<u>1</u>

34

3. Movements: Unit scheduled to depart on 14 Nov 1945 for Calais Staging Area, Marseille, France for Return to ZI for Demobilization. Unit departed as vehicle unit 50% overstrength in Category IV per Movement Order RE7399-SS.
4. Losses: Negative
5. Awards to Personnel: Negative
- * Strength at time of departure from Station, Hq, Ninth Air force, Bad Kissingen, Germany.

Document No. UNIT - CC - H - H:

Date Period Sep - Dec 1945

Title 4th Combat Camera Unit.

NOT IN FILE AT TIME OF FILMING.

PLEASE REFER TO ADDENDUM

ROLL INDEX