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By Authority of the
Commanding General

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Initials
A.H.F.

Date
15 Aug 45

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
SIGNAL SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SPSID

15 August 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Laboratory Branch for Period 1 August to 15 August 1945
THRU: Chief, Operating Services Division
TO: Commanding General, SSA

1. During the current reporting period TICOM film development reached a new peak of 1700 feet developed in a single working day. One difficulty has arisen in the study of this TICOM film in that only one reader is available for the 35 mm film. Approximately half of the TICOM has arrived on 35 mm film. An investigation into the availability of two more 35 mm Recordak Readers is being conducted at the present time.

2. The CIPAX work for the Equipment Branch was continued throughout this period on the special Graveyard Shift. The two WAC personnel who have been assigned the job are producing finished prints in an average of six and a half minutes after the undeveloped film is received.

3. Plans have been made for the making of a pictorial history of Arlington Hall Station. Mr. Mark Rhoads, for whom the project has been undertaken, has asked each Branch to furnish an itemized estimate of the pictures which will be required to portray the work of the Branch. These itemized estimates are then edited in a conference between the Branch Chief, Mr. Rhoads, The Chief, Laboratory Branch, and the Chief, Photographic Section SPSID prior to the actual photography to plan actual "shooting" schedules and to determine whether all requested pictures are needed to portray the Branch work. Photography is under way in the Laboratory Branch.

4. A study is in progress on methods of modernization of our microfilming techniques. In the past the data with respect to the type of material, the beginning number or date of a series of documents and the end number or date has been written in ink or pencil on the box of completed microfilm. In the future this will be typewritten on a printed label which will be pasted on the box in such a manner that no portion of the data will be lost unless the box is destroyed. All microfilming previously completed will be brought up to date and new standard labels will be put on these boxes in the near future. New internal indicators on each twenty-five feet of film and new "Operators Reports" will also be used in the future. A sheet of instructions for personnel who operate the camera has been prepared and it is contemplated that a one hour instruction lecture will be given each shift on the new methods.

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5. The examination of the effects of the Japanese Diplomats was completed and a report was sent to G-2. Two possible secret ink chemicals were found although no actual secret writing was seen. Two books and several single sheet documents were photostated for use here in SSA.

6. With the sudden Japanese surrender a very serious and immediate problem has arisen in the securing of Commercial Cable and radio traffic, formerly supplied by Cable Censorship. A complete study has been made on this problem and recommendations have been forwarded under "Immediate Action" cover.

7. The German Secret Ink Testing Machine, nicknamed by the Germans the "BUNKER" (Air Raid Shelter), has been unpacked and plans are underway to assemble the machine. One of the problems of assembly is location since for actual operation a water supply and 220 V AC electric supply will be required. A second problem lies in the fact that accompanying the machine are two German Gas Mask Containers full of assorted nuts, bolts, screws etc. of unknown use. A complete sorting of this conglomeration is under way.

8. Following general Post policy, only a skeleton force, consisting of Officers, was kept on duty in the Branch on 15 August. Due to the skeletonizing of most of the other units no priority requests came in to the Branch on this date.

W. B. FORTUNE
Major, Signal Corps
Chief, Laboratory Branch

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