

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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BPSIS-1  
17 November 1944

**Subject:** Motion picture of Signal Security Agency activities for historical purposes

**Thru:** Chief, Army Communications Service, Room 4 B 250, The Pentagon

**To:** Chief, Army Pictorial Service, Room 5 A 1058, The Pentagon

1. In order to adequately record the wartime functions of Signal Security Agency for historical, planning and training purposes, it is requested that a motion picture be produced by the Army Pictorial Service of selected activities of this organization. The film will be for the exclusive use of Signal Security Agency and those persons specifically designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff.
2. Due to the nature of the subject, it will be necessary to classify the film as TOP SECRET or SECRET. Only a limited number of properly cleared technicians should, therefore, be permitted to work on this production.
3. Since certain activities are now at maximum expansion, the project should begin in the near future. The person designated to supervise the production should consult Mr. William F. Friedman, Signal Security Agency to arrange details.
4. Two copies of the film are desired, both to be delivered to Signal Security Agency upon completion of the project. During production the film should not be shown to anyone not cleared for the project or approved by the Commanding Officer, Signal Security Agency. No copies will be retained by the Army Pictorial Service or be filed outside the Signal Security Agency.

/s/ W. Preston Corderman  
Colonel, Signal Corps  
Chief, Signal Security Branch

CONCURRENCE:

/s/ G-2 OWO

Incl. #1

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**Subject:** Motion Picture Project 3809 and Film Strip Project B-43-5  
on Signal Security Agency activities of historical purposes.

**SFSHP-1** (17 November 1944) 1st Ind.

**ASF, OOSigO, Washington 25, D. C. 11 January 1945.**

**Thru:** Chief, Army Communications Service, OOSigO, Room 4E 250,  
The Pentagon.

**To:** Chief, Signal Security Branch, OOSigO, Washington 25, D. C.

1. The Signal Corps Photographic Laboratory, Army War College, Washington 25, D. C. has been directed to make the photographic historical record requested in the basic communication. Captain Barker, Officer-in-charge, Domestic Production Section, Army Pictorial Service, has been designated as representative of Army Pictorial Service to coordinate all the photographic work, and Captain Purinton of the Signal Corps Photographic Laboratory has been designated as the officer responsible for the actual photographic work. Captain Barker reports that as the result of a meeting between Mr. William Friedman of the Signal Security Branch, Captain Barker of the Army Pictorial Service, and Captain Purinton of the Signal Corps Photographic Laboratory on 2 January 1945, in Mr. Friedman's office, the following plan was decided upon:

a. The photographic historical coverage will be divided into two parts:

- (1) A motion picture in 16mm Kodachrome classified not higher than SECRET, to show and describe the outside of all buildings and areas and be an introduction to the entire subject, and;
- (2) A film strip will be prepared to cover all interior operations. The film strip appears to be more practicable, because of the fact that still photographs could be made of operations without causing any appreciable curtailment thereof. Furthermore, it would require a cryptographic clearance of fewer Army Pictorial Service personnel.

b. Every effort will be made to use photographers and a retouch artist from Signal Security Branch for the preparation of the film strip frame cards, in order to avoid the necessity of obtaining clearances of equivalent Army Pictorial Service personnel.

c. The Army Pictorial Service will determine, immediately,

the fewest number of personnel which must be cleared in order to photograph and process the film strip and record and process the sound records. These sound records will be made on acetate at the Signal Corps Photographic Laboratory and thereby prevent this material from getting into civilian hands in commercial establishments.

d. The following steps will be taken to accomplish the film strip and motion picture coverage:

- (1) Army Pictorial Service will obtain cryptographic clearance forms, have them filled out by the personnel who handle the film strip processing, and have them delivered to Mr. Friedman, who will insure as prompt clearance as possible.
- (2) Mr. Friedman and Captain Furinton will outline in detail the proposed coverage required for the film strip and motion picture. Captain Furinton will arrange to evaluate the excellence of the photographic personnel at the Signal Security Branch, and will arrange to have the retouch artist trained at the Signal Corps Photographic Laboratory. Mr. Friedman and Captain Furinton will arrange to make the necessary still photography and will write and record the narration to accompany same.
- (3) As soon as it is determined what material will be incorporated in the motion picture film, Mr. Friedman will contact Captain Barker who will arrange to have a writer sent to Mr. Friedman's office to prepare the scenario for this motion picture. Actual photography on the motion picture will be delayed until spring in order to obtain the best possible pictures of the exterior of the installations. Both still and motion picture photography will be under the direction of Captain Furinton of the Signal Corps Photographic Laboratory.

e. The Army Pictorial Service will cooperate in every way with the Signal Security Branch in the preparation of this historical record, and any changes from the plan outlined above may be made directly with Captain Barker and Captain Furinton.

f. Miscellaneous Film Strip Project number Misc. B-43-5 is assigned to cover the film strip work, and Project 3809 is assigned to cover the motion picture.

For the Chief, Army Pictorial Service:

/s/ Charles S. Stodter  
 Charles S. Stodter,  
 Colonel, Signal Corps  
 Asst. Chief, Army Pictorial Service.

8 February 1945.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ANNEX F

Arrangements have been made with Army Pictorial Service regarding the preparation under Mr. Friedman's direction of a pictorial record of the local SSA installations and activities for historical purposes. It will consist of motion pictures of outside buildings and areas and film strips with accompanying sound records of interior operations.

The number of photographic technicians used for this purpose will be kept to a minimum and each will be carefully checked for security purposes and have the regular cryptographic clearance before admittance to SSA or participation in the technical work in any way. Only two copies of the material will be made, one to be kept here and the other elsewhere for safeguard against destruction by fire.

A similar program is being undertaken by SID Etousa and other signal intelligence units, with similar precautions. These latter will cover Corps and Army Radio Intelligence activities as well, and will be integrated with the SSA project, so far as practicable.

Thus it is hoped that a complete, accurate, factual, but nevertheless highly interesting record of the entire signal intelligence operations of the U. S. Army during the present war will result. Such a record should be very valuable for historical as well as training purposes.

*Incl. #2*~~CONFIDENTIAL~~