

138 SIGNAL RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANY

HISTORY OF SERVICES

14 February 1942 to 31 January 1944



138 Signal Radio Intelligence Company, Company photo, Fort George Wright, Spokane, Washington, 27 Feb 1943.

HISTORY OF SERVICES. -- SCOPE

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This record is a brief chronological history of the company from its inception, and contains information concerning the original formation or organization of the unit, notations as to the sources from which the personnel was obtained such as by transfer from other units, voluntary enlistment, or draft. A statement of any changes in the designation of the company, a record of the strength of the organization at all times, its different stations (showing date of arrival and departure), its marches, campaigns, battles, and losses in action, its various commanding officers, and the members of the company who have distinguished themselves in action, and a series of photographs of personnel at various times showing important scenes or events.

For a complete guide of the form and contents of this record see AR 345-105.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company was constituted on 7 Feb 1942 at Fort George Wright, near Spokane, Washington. The unit was activated on 14 Feb 1942 and began training at and around Ft. George Wright subsequent to their deployment to the South Pacific to perform signals intelligence operations under the control of the Fifth Air Force. The unit later became the 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, Aviation (29 Oct 1943); 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile (J) (29 Feb 1944); 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile (14 Nov 1946); was transferred from the Department of the Army to the Department of the Air Force on 1 Feb 1949; and was inactivated on 8 May 1955. The unit was revived on 1 Oct 1993 when it was consolidated with 6920th Security Squadron (which came into existence on 1 Oct 1978 and was renamed 6920th Electronic Security Squadron on 1 August 1979) and exists today as the 301st Intelligence Squadron at Misawa Air Base in Japan.

This history was transcribed from handwritten text in January 2012. Some formatting and spelling has been altered for readability and consistency, however, the content remains intact. The AF ISR Agency History Office has scanned each page, preserving the documents in a digital format more conducive to preservation and mass distribution. The original documents have been sent to the National Archives for permanent storage. The scanned versions are attached as supporting documents.



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138 SIGNAL RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANY

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1942

On 14 February 1942, Pursuant to instructions contained in War Department letter RG 3202 (1-19-42) MR-MORFF/A-1, 7 February 1942, Subject "Constitution and activation of the 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th and 140th Signal Radio Intelligence Companies, the 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, having been constituted, was activated. The company was assigned to the Second Air Force with station at Fort George Wright, Spokane, Washington.

On 25 February, Second Lieutenant (2nd Lt) Felix M. Marshall, Signal Corps was relieved from assignment and duty with the 404th Signal Company, Aviation, Fort George Wright, Washington and assigned to the new company, immediately assuming command, per Special Orders No. 39, Headquarters Second Air Force, dated 25 February 1942. On the same date, and by authority of the same Special Orders, the first filler personnel were transferred from the 404th Signal Company, Aviation, and 434th Signal Maintenance Company, Aviation, Fort George Wright, Washington, and the 39th Signal Platoon, AB, Geiger Field, Washington. The nucleus of this new company, consisting of the Commanding Officer and six enlisted men, only remained unchanged in numbers until 7 March at which time another man was transferred to the organization.

On 21 February, 2nd Lt Marshall, Commanding, was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant (1st Lt), with the effective date retroactive to 1 February 1942. At the end of March, the company showed an increase of 5 enlisted men over the original number.

APRIL 1942

9 April, the first large contingent of 18 men of filler personnel arrived, to be followed by the second group of 16 men, third group of 41 men and fourth and fifth groups, until by the end of April our total strength amounted to one officer and 109 enlisted men. Meanwhile preparations had been going on for plans for permanent quarters and school facilities.

MAY 1942

1 May saw the addition of 2nd Lt Harold G. Harbin to the officer personnel of this company. The growing ranks were further swelled by the addition of 93 more filler personnel, raising the company strength to 202 enlisted men and 2 officers. On 18 May, 32 men left the ranks of the 138th, being transferred to the 404th Signal Company, Aviation, this station, leaving the strength of the company at 167 enlisted men and 2 officers, as of the end of the month.

On 13 May, the company participated in a Post Parade in competition with other organizations. Due to the splendid showing made, we were informed by the Post Adjutant that the First Platoon of the Company walked off with the honors and that the organization as a whole made an excellent appearance.

JUNE 1942

Our ranks were further depleted with the transfer of 10 more men to the 404th Signal Company, Aviation on 8 June. During this period, preparations had been going on for moving from our temporary barracks to building 26-A. 19 June saw the consummation of the plans and on this date the move was completed and the men housed in the new quarters.



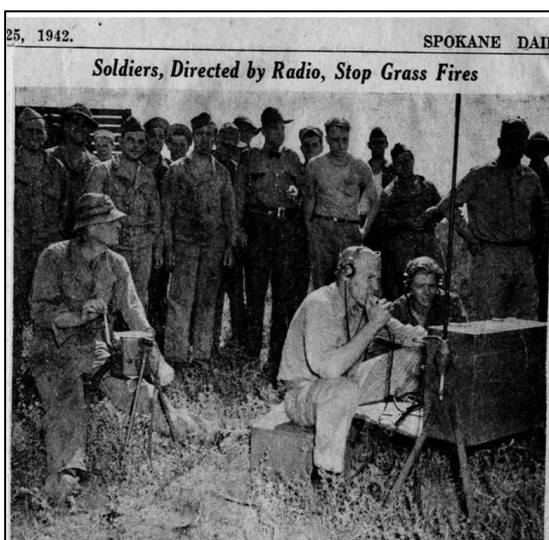
Enlisted "Day Rooms" were completed and used as communal recreation rooms for those living in the barracks.

Again inroads were made on the enlisted personnel with the transfer of 8 men to the 316th Air Base Squadron, this station, on 24 June, and transfer of 7 men on 30 June to the 7th Communications Squadron, II Ground Air Support, also this station. However, the officer personnel was increased with the joining of 2nd Lt Andrews, so that the strength of the company at the end of June stood at 3 officers and 140 enlisted men.

As part of the training program in June, the men fired the small bore rifle; course "G" on 4 and 5 June.

JULY 1942

The month of July saw very little change in personnel. The strength of the company remaining fairly constant, so that at the end of the month the number of enlisted men reduced to 137. However, during the month the company entered an intensive training course in marksmanship and manual of arms in addition to numerous field problems successfully carried to completion.



SPOKANE DAILY CHRONICLE July 25, 1942

Soldiers, Directed by Radio, Stop Grass Fires

"The army was on the job yesterday when fire, starting near the fork of the Seven Mile and Nine Mile roads, swept over 2000 acres and threatened homes and property on the Little Spokane and Five Mile prairie. The soldier fire fighters were directed by radio. Picture shows an army radio crew from Fort George Wright, which set up "headquarters" in an alfalfa field overlooking the fire in a valley below. Shown are Private C. J. Falk, running the generator; Corporal G. H. Pollard Jr., at the "mike"; Private Frank McKenzie, with headset. Sergeant F. C. McDowell (right) was in charge."

Our company was called upon to perform an unusual service on 25 July when fire starting near the fork of the Seven Mile and Nine Mile roads, Spokane, Washington, swept over 2,000 acres and threatened homes and properties on the Little Spokane and Five Mile Prairie. Communications directing the fire fighters was set up and operated by the men of our company, and greatly facilitated in coordinating the efforts of the fire fighters.

AUGUST 1942

On 2 August, 22 enlisted men left the company, being transferred to the 955th Radio Intelligence Company, Davis-Monthan Field in Tucson, Arizona.

11 August saw the promotion of 2nd Lt Harbin to the rank of 1st Lt. However, on 25 August, 1st Lt Harbin was relieved from assignment and duty and assigned to the 955th Radio Intelligence Company. Then, on 29 August, 9 enlisted men were transferred in grade to the Signal Corps unassigned, but remained here for rations and quarters, leaving the strength of the company at 2 officers and 104 enlisted men.

SEPTEMBER 1942

On 9 September, Master Sergeant (M/Sgt) Ball was discharged to accept commission as 1st Lt and as such joined the company on 11 September. On 26 September, 2nd Lts Gilmore, Turner and Belth also joined the company. This date also saw the addition of 12 enlisted men, 7 joining from National Schools, Los Angeles, and the remainder from Headquarters Infantry RTC, Camp Roberts, California. Further additions were made on 27 September with the arrival of 5 men from SCRTC, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, swelling the ranks to 6 officers and 123 enlisted men.

OCTOBER 1942

On 2 October, 2nd Lt Ellis C. Atchison joined this company. On 1 October, 23 more enlisted men joined but this number was slightly offset with the transfer of 8 men from the company on 10 October. Then on 17 October, 10 men joined; 25 October, 12 men; 26 October, 5 men. And on 27 October, the strength of the company was raised to 255 enlisted men with the arrival of a contingent from National Schools, Los Angeles, and another from Army Radio School, Midland Division, Kansas City, Missouri. With the arrival of 1st Lt Gabler on 26 October, the number of officers was increased to 8.

NOVEMBER 1942

2 November saw the loss of 28 men through transfer to the 310th Signal Company, Wing, this station. This loss was, however, offset by replacements during the month which saw the strength of the company at the 245 figure as of the last day of the month. The officer personnel was changed, however, with the loss of 1st Lt Ball who was relieved from assignment and duty this company, and assigned to the 954th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, Geiger Field, Washington as of 24 November.

On 28 November, Commanding Officer Marshall was appointed Captain.

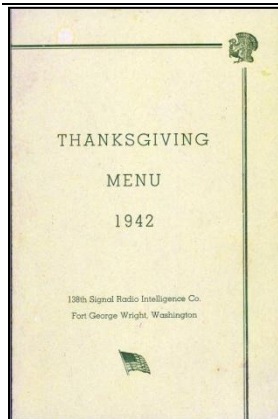
[11 November 1942] Armistice Day the company participated in a retreat parade. We were given the honor of furnishing the Color Guard. Pictures of the Color Guard forms part of this Company History File.



SPOKANE DAILY CHRONICLE 12 November 1942
Fort Soldiers Observe Armistice Day With Retreat Parade

"In observance of the armistice of World war I., soldiers of World war II, yesterday staged a retreat parade at Fort George Wright. The color guard, shown in the top picture, included, left to right, Staff Sergeants Stanley J. Stevens, George H. Pollard and Raymond L. McRae. All are members of a signal company. In the lower picture bandsmen are shown. Reviewing officer was Major Willard P. McCrone. The parade was formed by Base Adjutant Albert W. Osborn. (Official United States army air force photographs.)"

[26 November 1942] In order to provide a festive air for Thanksgiving, arrangements were made to permit the members of the company to invite guests to a special dinner. Pictures of the officers and their guests and the kitchen personnel were taken and are now part of this company history. All of the officers and their guests together with the enlisted men and their guests attended this dinner. Needless to say, it was very successful.



Cooks(L-R): T/5th Samuel H. Haber, PFC Louis A. Caravello, PVT Clement P. O'Neil, T/5th Woodrow G. Johnson, T/4th Elmer E. Larson, and S/Sgt Robert N. Huber.
 Guests (Clockwise from front left): Lt Joseph E. Farrington, Mrs. Joseph E. Farrington, Mrs. Clara Andrews, Lt Herbert L. Smith, Mrs. Herbert L. Smith, Lt Millard J. Ball, Mrs. Donald Heck, Captain Donald Heck, Mrs. Felix M. Marshall, Captain Felix M. Marshall, Captain John H. Brooks, Mrs. John H. Brooks, Captain Albert Blaire, Mrs. Albert Blaire, Lt Horton R. Andrews, Mrs. Horton R. Andrews, Miss Janet Andrews, Mrs. Ellis Atchison.



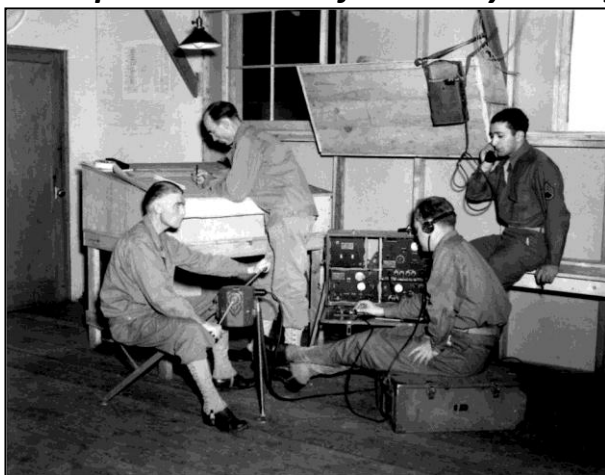
No captions

DECEMBER 1942

On 6 December, Staff Sergeant (S/Sgt) Himes was discharged to accept appointment as Warrant Officer Junior Grade (WOJG) and, effective 7 December, assumed his duties as such within this company. Very little change occurred in the number of enlisted personnel. The strength of the company numbering 259 men, 7 officers and 1 Warrant Officer. However, with the appointment of 2nd Lt Andrews to rank of 1st Lt, our officer personnel consisted of one Captain, two 1st Lts, four 2nd Lts and one Warrant Officer.

THE SPOKANE CHRONICLE, SPOKANE, WASH. 24 December 1942

Interception Radio Outfit Used by Intelligence Service



Intercepting enemy messages and locating enemy-operated broadcast stations is the work of these men in the radio intelligence service at Fort George Wright. Left shows equipment at the fort. The picture on the right shows a mobile radio set. In the left picture, left to right are: Private First Class Leo Farrell, Private First Class George L. Thalhamer, Private Paul H. Smith and Staff Sergeant Edward L. Moss. In the right picture are Private Melvin J. Bass, driver, and Sergeant Nicholas Nidiositko using radio equipment. (Photos by public relations, Fort George Wright.)

Radio Intelligence Service is Vital Unit of Air Forces by John J. Lemon

“Although they have not been “glamorized” by the war department and its agencies, few military units have a tougher, more interesting job in this war than the men of the army air forces’ signal radio intelligence service. Detectives in the air, these men intercept messages sent by both their own and enemy radio stations, locate sending apparatus through the use of direction finders, and report their discoveries to their branches of the service.

Such a unit is located at Fort George Wright, where men are being trained for this highly specialized duty. It is organized so that it can operate as an individual unit, maintaining its own motorized equipment, mess and field kitchens and headquarters and service platoon.

Men entrusted to this duty can not be selected at random. For that reason the personnel of the radio intelligence company at Fort Wright is above average. In fact more than half the number of enlisted men are noncommissioned officers because of their ability.

Sets Very Sensitive. *Highly sensitive receiving sets have been set up in the control room at the company’s building on the base, where all types of messages are “caught.” Listeners can use either earphones or loud-speakers, and must type out the messages as they are received, whether by the dot-dash system or oral delivery.*

Radio intelligence service does not bother to decode messages, as that is the duty of another intelligence branch, but it does play an important part in detecting tri[unreadable] used in sending illegitimate messages. For instance, when it is found that the sender is using recording at high speed to send code the "air police" us a recording machine in reception, and they cut down its speed to detect what was sent. They also use men who understand foreign languages to pick up enemy broadcasts and translate them to English.

To start their training, the men are seated before automatic code machines, operating similarly to the moving picture projector, except that the "film" produces sound instead of pictures. A tape on which an irregular black line is printed is run between two reels, passing an electric eye.

When the black line breaks, sound is produced.

Classes in Code. Classes also are held in typing and sending messages by code. When the beginner is able to receive at a speed of 20 words a minute and type at 40 words a minute, he is ready for interception service. He is on his own when it comes to coordinating, receiving and typing the messages.

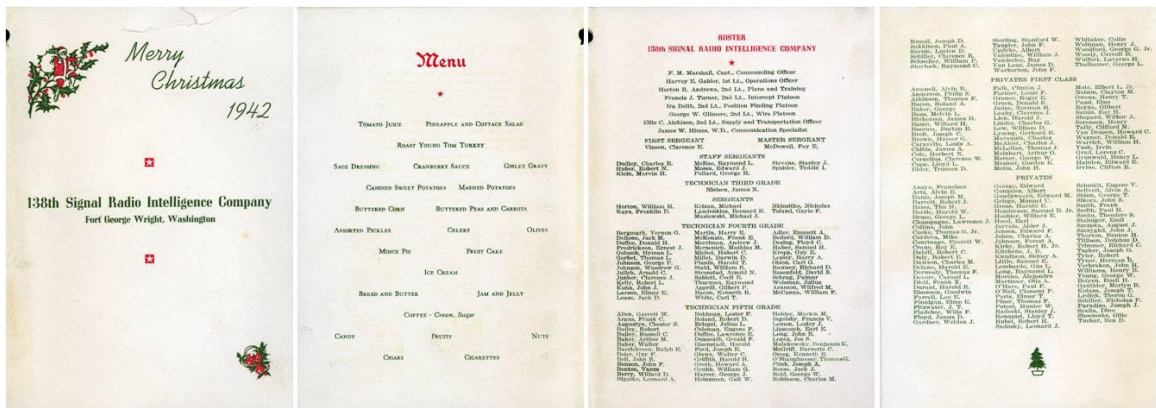
Direction finding requires several types of equipment, a knowledge of map making and compass reading. The machines used in locating enemy stations are complex and varied. Their exact operation features are held secret by military authorities. Smaller detectors are powered by hand-driven generators, similar in design to hand grindstones. Others that can be mounted on trucks are powered by small gasoline-fueled generators and have a much wider range. Operators use headphones and, by manipulating dials and antennas which revolve through the points of the compass, can determine the direction from which a broadcast is being received.

X Marks Spot. By use of field telephone, telegraph, or portable broadcasting sets, the information obtained is relayed to headquarters.

When these outfits are in the field, three or four separate units are sent out together and space themselves various distances apart. As each unit reports to headquarters, a mapping crew establishes the location of each on a map and then draws a straight line in the direction from which each listener believes the patrolled broadcast originates. The enemy station is then determined to be in the approximate spot where two or more of the lines cross. Artillery fire or planes are dispatched to that location and soon the station is 'off the air for good'."

* * * * *

In order to observe the spirit of the Christmas holidays, the men of the company obtained the necessary adornments and decorated the day room. A huge Christmas tree gaily trimmed provided the needed touch. Christmas day, the officers and men of the company again invited their guests to dinner in the company mess hall.



JANUARY 1943

With the start of the new year, an intensified training program was inaugurated. The number of personnel changed very little. The figure as of the end of January being 7 officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 257 enlisted men.



Personnel honing their collection skills (training).



Wiring for communications security (training).

FEBRUARY 1943

During the course of the month of February the strength of the company was slightly reduced by the transfer of enlisted men so that the end of the month the number of enlisted men totaled 252 with 7 officers and 1 Warrant Officer.



SPOKANE DAILY CHRONICLE 6 February 1943
Fort Wright's Snow-Burners Hang on for a Nosedive Down New Course
"Fort George Wright's "suicide squad" gets ready to take off on the first run on the fort's new toboggan slide. On the sled, from left to right are: Technician Fourth Class William R. Stahl, Second Lieutenant Abraham. A. Anapol, Second Lieutenant George O. Young and Second Lieutenant George Gilmore. Sitting on the bank in the rear are Private Eugene V. Schmidt and Francis Ingelsby, who helped construct the course. The soldiers estimated they attained a speed of 65 miles per hour."

On 27 February, the entire company assembled on the company drill field where pictures were taken of the company as a whole. An individual picture of the officer personnel was also taken. Copies of the pictures are now in our company history file.



138 Signal Radio Intelligence Company



138 Signal Radio Intelligence Company Officers

MARCH 1943

7 March, 1st Lt Andrews was relieved from assignment and duty, this company and transferred to the 18th Replacement Wing, Salt Lake City, Utah. The vacancy was filled by the assignment to this company of 1st Lt Painter on 9 March 1943.

On 6 March, Technician 5th Grade (T/5) Howard A. Groth was discharged to accept appointment as Warrant Officer (JG) and as such assumed duty with this Company with the addition of two men from the 420th Signal Company, Aviation, three men from the 852nd Signal Service Company, Aviation, and four men from the 18th Replacement Wing, Salt Lake City, Utah, raising the total enlisted men to 266. The company hit an all time high in number of enlisted personnel. With the promotion of 2nd Lts Atchison and Gilmore to the rank of 1st Lts, the standing strength of the officers as of the end of March was one Captain, four 1st Lts, two 2nd Lts, and two Warrant Officers.

The entire company fired the U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30, M-1903 for qualification, and the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun, completing the range firing on 18 March. Of the total number of officers and enlisted men firing, 42% qualified.

APRIL 1943

Throughout the month of April, except for three changes, the strength of the company remained at a constant figure: one Captain, four 1st Lts, two 2nd Lts., one WOJG* and 266 EM comprised the personnel of the organization on 30 April 1943.

[*Original text reads 1 WOJG, despite March numbers quoting two Warrant Officers]



17 April 1943. (Left Photo) Capt Marshall, 1/Sgt Vinson, and S/Sgt Kays prepare for a company inspection. (Right photo) Capt Felix Marshall, 138 SRIC Commander, inspects the 138 SRIC.

MAY 1943

2 May, Captain Marshall (Commanding Officer) and 3 enlisted men constituted an advance party to Fort Dix, New Jersey. 1st Lt Gabler assumed command.

4 May, saw the company entrain for permanent change of station, across the continent to Fort Dix, New Jersey.

9 May, the Organization detrained at Fort Dix, New Jersey (Overseas staging area) and Captain Marshall again assumed command.

Left Fort Dix, New Jersey by train and arrived at Staten Island to board the United States Army Transport (U.S.A.T.) Uruguay on 14 May.

Set sail at 0550, 15 May, thus start the journey for overseas service. Living quarters on the Uruguay were badly crowded. 21 May we arrived at the Panama Canal and on 22 May, passage was made through the canal. Thus, the end of May saw the organization at sea aboard the U.S.A.T. Uruguay somewhere in mid-Pacific. Company strength the end of April* was: 1 Captain, 4 1st Lts, 2 2nd Lts, one WOJG and 251 Enlisted Men.

[*Original text reads April, although entry was written at the end of May]

JUNE 1943

10 June, the international date-line was crossed losing entirely the 9th of June. U.S.A.T. Uruguay arrived at Brisbane, (Queensland) Australia on the 14th of June. Company disembarked on 15 June and marched to Camp Doomben (Brisbane) where Headquarters was established.

Through the loss of a few men to the general hospital, the strength of the company was reduced to one Captain, four 1st Lts, two 2nd Lts, one WOJG and 248 enlisted men.

JULY 1943

Except for the joining of 2nd Lt Tingley and 7 enlisted men, only routine duties occupied the month of July. Thus, one Capt, four 1st Lts, three 2nd Lts, one WOJG and 256 enlisted men made up the total strength of the organization as of the last of July.

AUGUST 1943

August was again crowded with a multitude of rapid moving events. On 2 August, the first contingent of the Advance Echelon, consisting of 1st Lt Painter, 2nd Lt Turner and 44 enlisted men, left Brisbane for Port Moresby, New Guinea. The second contingent, composed of 2nd Lts Belth and Tingley, WOJG Himes, and 68 enlisted men, departed Brisbane for Port Moresby on 3 August, closely followed by the 3rd contingent, consisting of Capt Marshall (Commanding Officer), 1st Lt Gabler and 43 enlisted men, which left on the 4 August. 1st Lt Gilmore and 99 enlisted men were left at Camp Doomben, Brisbane to form the rear echelon. Headquarters was set up close to Headquarters, Advance Echelon, Fifth Air Force, about 10 miles from Port Moresby, and camp was established.

31 August, the Advance Echelon of the 3rd Operating Platoon departed for duty at Dobadura, New Guinea. Company strength still stands at one Captain, four 1st Lts, three 2nd Lts, one WOJG and 256 EM as of last of August.

SEPTEMBER 1943

11 September – Rear Echelon under command of 1st Lt Gilmore arrived by boat from Brisbane to rejoin this organization. On 29 September, the rear Echelon, 3rd Operating Platoon (6 enlisted men) left to join outfit at Dobadura.

Organization had its first Red Air Raid Alert on 20 September at 0400, closely followed by Red Alerts on the 21st and 22nd. No casualties, no damage. First casualty occurred on 28 September when a stray bullet from a .45 caliber weapon injured T/5 Stauffer in the head. Wound was not too serious and he was back to duty in a few days.

There was no great change in personnel and the company strength remains at 10 officers and 257 enlisted men.

OCTOBER 1943

The month of October was rather uneventful. 1st Lt Toothaker was assigned to our organization and attached to the 126th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, APO 923, along with 5 enlisted men. 1st Lt Gilmore assumed command of the 3rd Operating Platoon at Dobadura and 2nd Lt Belth returned to this Headquarters. On 17 October, Captain Marshall, 2nd Lt Belth and 8 enlisted men left for detached Service with Signal Intelligence Division, USAFFE at Brisbane, Australia. Thirty enlisted men left the same day for detached service with 126th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, Brisbane, Australia. This is the first time Captain Marshall has been absent from his command for more than a few days. 1st Lt Gabler assumed command. On 30 October, Private First Class (Pfc) Finnigan became the first man to be evacuated to the mainland as a result of serious burns received in the line of duty. On the 17th, we had another Red Alert. Nothing happened. The personnel strength of the organization now stands at nine officers, one WOJG and 261 enlisted, as of the 31 October.

NOVEMBER 1943

The first few days of November passed without incident. On the 6th, we had another nuisance Air Alert. Again, no damage. 13 November was a milestone in the life of this organization. On this date the 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company was redesignated the 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, Aviation, effective 13 November 1943, per Par 1, Secret General Order No. 274, Headquarters Fifth Air Force, APO 925, dated 13 November 1943, and War Department letter AG 322 (28 Oct 1943) OB-1-AFRPG-M, dated 29 October 1943. We had another Air Raid Alert on 18 November. Sergeant (Sgt) Tarno H. Fudenna was transferred in Grade to Headquarter Section, Fifth Air Force, APO 925. On the 23rd, T/5 Clarence R. Schiller was evacuated to the mainland. Private (Pvt) Abraham I. Silber was also evacuated to the mainland for further hospitalization. Thus, the number of men evacuated has been increased to three. 1st Lt Gabler, 2nd Lt Turner and 14 members of the first operating platoon were placed on temporary duty (TD) at APO 713. 1st Lt Painter assumed command. Thus, the strength of the organization was nine officers, one WOJG and 258 enlisted men of 30 November 1943.

DECEMBER 1943

The first day of December, a Company Order was published listing 32 promotions. On 5 December, the first furlough while overseas was granted to an enlisted man. The same day, the sirens told us another Red Air Alert was at hand, however it was of no consequence. 1st Lt Gabler returned from Gusap, New Guinea, and assumed command on 6 December. Three more enlisted men were granted furloughs and departed on 9 December. On 10 December,

orders were received promoting 2nd Lts Belth, Tingley and Turner to 1st Lt with date of rank from 7 December 1943.

On 13 December, 1st Lt Toothaker joined from duty status (DS) with 35 enlisted men from 126th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, APO 923. On 14 December, three enlisted men were sent to join the 1st Operating Platoon at Gusap. On the 15th, 8 more enlisted men left for the 1st Platoon. Captain Marshall and 8 enlisted men returned from DS with Signal Intelligence Division, USAFFE on 15 December 15. Captain Marshall assumed command. On 18 December, another Company Order was published, listing 31 promotions. One enlisted man was transferred from the organization on 22 December. On 24 December, 1st Lts Gabler and Painter and 10 enlisted men were placed on DS at Signal Intelligence Division, USAFFE. 1st Lt Tingley and Technical Sergeant (T/Sgt) Thornton were placed on Temporary Duty at Camp Pinedale, California. It was quite a thrill to know they were returning to the States. 1st Lt Toothaker was sent to the 3rd Platoon at Dobadura to relieve 1st Lt Gilmore for duty at the 1st Platoon at Gusap. 1st Lt Turner was relieved from duty at the 1st Platoon and was evacuated because of illness. The strength of the company as of 31 December 1943 was one Captain, eight 1st Lts, one WOJG and 257 enlisted men.

JANUARY 1944

The new year of 1944 was celebrated by sending Sgt Arneson to the hospital with a flesh wound in his right arm caused by a stray bullet. One enlisted man was transferred out on 10 January. A Company Order was published on 11 January 11, listing 12 promotions. 15 January, another enlisted man was evacuated to the mainland of Australia. On 22 January, a Company Order was published, making 20 additional promotions. Captain Marshall and 20 enlisted men left 24 January for Nadzab, New Guinea, for purpose of establishing a new camp. The company was again changing station. 1st Lt Atchison assumed command. On 27 January, three enlisted men, Tec 4 Craig, Tec 4 Gudgel and Cpl Gardner left for Brisbane, Australia to attend Officers' Candidate School. Six enlisted men of the 2nd Platoon left for Nadzab on 28 January for permanent change of station. All travel of Advance Echelon and 2nd Platoon was by air. Captain Marshall returned from Nadzab and assumed command on 29 January. 1st Lt Gilmore was transferred from the 1st Platoon at Gusap and placed in command of the advance echelon and 2nd Platoon at Nadzab. The last two days of January saw the evacuation of WOJG Himes and 4 enlisted men to Australia. Thus, at the end of January, through transfer and losses due to sickness, the organizational strength dropped to one Captain, eight 1st Lts, and 248 enlisted men.

* * * * * END * * * * *



Map of the 138 SRIC/138 SRICA Camp locations [Not from the original document]

**138TH SIGNAL RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANY
FORT GEORGE WRIGHT, WASHINGTON**



Photo taken 27 February 1943 ~ Reading from left to right – first row, bottom to top

1st Row: Pvt Berrie, Pfc Meamer, Pvt Stainiger, Sgt Frederickson, Pvt Lien, Pvt Devore*, Pfc Fladeboe, Pvt Dawson, Pfc Amenell, 1st/Sgt Vinson, Pvt Artz, Lt Gilmore, Lt Atchison, Mr. Himes (WOJG), T/5th Reid, Pfc Finnigan, Pfc Atkinson, T/5th McGriff, Pvt R.O. Bailey, Pfc Cordova, Pvt Socha, T/4th Junker, Sgt Rosenfeld.

2nd Row: T/4th Rusoff*, T/4th O'Shaughnessy, Pfc Meinhart, Pvt Thornton, T/4th Merriman, T/4th McCanna, Pfc Caravello, Pvt Durant, Pvt Baier, T/5th Williams, T/4th Kuhn, T/5th Rubel, Pvt O'Neil, T/5th Schmidt, Pvt Moreno, Captain Marshall, Lt Gabler, Lt Andrews*, Lt Belth, Lt Turner, T/5th Reese, T/5th Blakeman, T/4th Weisman, M/Sgt Dudley (rear), Sgt Krizan, S/Sgt Laudenklos (rear), T/4th Golomb, T/4th Larson, Pfc Leahy, S/Sgt Nidositko, Pvt George, T/5th Sherlock, Pvt Sadosky, M/Sgt Moses, T/5th Lopez.

3rd Row: T/4th Heinzman, Pfc George Baker, Pvt Delano, T/5th Cupp, Pfc Colella, Pvt Collins, T/5th Schiller, Pvt Griego, Pfc Elder, T/5th Kirby, Pfc Graner, Pfc Mercer, Pvt Gauthier, Pvt Goudzwaard, T/5th Robert Bailey, T/4th Stahl, Pfc Johns, T/5th Yush, Pvt Eisenon, Pvt Daly, T/5th Woltman, T/4th Michel, S/Sgt McRae, S/Sgt Klein, T/5th Olson, S/Sgt Kays, T/4th D.H. Duffee, S/Sgt Spuhler, S/Sgt Huber, S/Sgt Merzenich.

4th Row: T/5th Allen, T/4th Reyna, Pvt Bergmark, T/5th A.M. Baker, S/Sgt Nielsen, Pvt Holder, Pvt Maraquin, Pvt Hoobler, Pvt Gonzales, T/Sgt Horton, Pvt Gross, Pvt Sikora, Pvt Radecki, T/5th Vanderlee, T/5th Eisenstadt, T/4th Ramsey, Pvt Crane, Pvt Brindley, T/5th Ingolsby, T/5th Willard Berry, T/5th Briegel, Pvt Malakowsky, Pvt O'Hare, Pvt Trimmer, T/4th Ford, T/4th Sublett, T/5th Groth*, Pvt Anaya, Pvt Cooke, T/5th Garner, T/5th Metts, Pfc Shepard.

5th Row: Pvt Bates, T/5th Valentine, Pfc Grad, T/5th Samis, T/4th Kropp, Pvt Coker, Pfc Champagne, T/5th Argus, T/4th Thurman, T/5th Boland, T/4th Ronquist, T/5th Tucker, T/5th Sterling, Pfc Seltveit, Pvt Pollard, T/4th Warburton, Pvt Lombardo, S/Sgt Martin, Pfc Little, Pvt R.L. Long, T/5th Whitaker, Pvt Mortimer, T/5th Tangler, T/4th Apprill, Pvt Schneller, Sgt Lipscomb, Pfc Gorbat, T/5th Wulfert, T/5th Grubb, T/4th Lemen, Pfc Lyseng, T/5th Benton, T/5th Pitok (rear of Benton), Pfc Farmer, T/5th Bohlman, Pvt Planin, Pfc Henderson.

6th Row: Pvt Knudtson, Pvt Hood, Sgt Stronstad, Pvt Bolyou, T/5th L.E. Duffoe, Pfc F.A. Johnson, Pvt Piner, T/4th Verbraken, T/5th Barrickman, Pvt Kolasa, T/4th Schrag, S/Sgt J.R. Long*, T/4th Robinson, T/4th Anderson, T/5th Low, M/Sgt Stevens, Pvt Szozpka, Pvt Speicher, T/5th Falk, Sgt Maslowski, Pvt Barrett, Pvt Tyner, Pfc McKenzie, Pfc Hainlon, T/5th Updyke, T/5th Dunsoath, T/4th G.P. Johnson, T/4th Lepley, Pfc Groom.

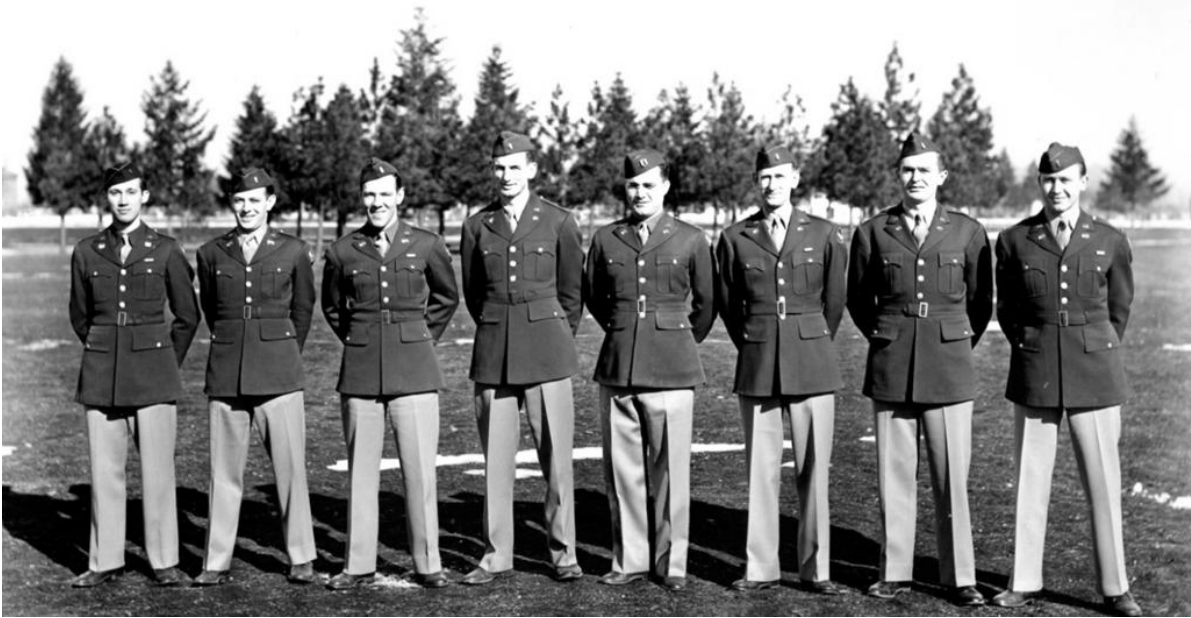
7th Row: Pfc Van Deusen, Pfc Cole, T/4th Bell, T/5th Griffith, Pfc Warrick, Pvt Fitzwater, Pvt Bania, Pfc Irvine, Pvt Napier, Pfc Henry, T/5th Woody, T/4th Bedored, Pfc R.A. Bacon, Sgt Arneson, Pfc Boerma, Pfc Dellone, Pfc Passi, Pvt Courtnago.

8th Row: Pvt Kitchens, Pfc Bass, Pvt Paris, Pvt Derryberry, Pvt Floyd, Pfc Childs, T/5th Omeg, T/5th Judao, T/5th Sakkinen, Pfc Owens, Pfc McAleer, Pfc Cornelius, Pfc Haselden, T/5th W. Baker, T/4th Leaso, T/4th K.R. Bacon, T/4th Linder, Pfc Nelson, Cpl Thalhamer, T/4th White, Pvt Tyler, T/4th Toland.

*Those indicated with asterisk did not accompany unit overseas.

* * * * *

Officers of the 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company



Picture taken 27 February 1943 ~ Reading from left to right

WOJG James W. Himes, Communications Specialist; 2nd Lt Ira Belth, Position Finding Platoon; 2nd Lt Ellis C. Atchison, Supply and Transportation Officer; 1st Lt Harvey E. Gabler, Operations Officer; Captain Felix M. Marshall, Commanding Officer; 1st Lt Horton R. Andrews, Plans and Training; 2nd Lt Francis J. Turner, Intercept Platoon; 2nd Lt George W. Gilmore, Wire Platoon.

* * * * *

COMPANY ROSTER – 26 Nov 1942

138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company
Fort George Wright, Washington

Command Staff

1st Lt Felix M. Marshall	Commanding Officer
1st Lt Millard J. Ball	Operations Officer
1st Lt Harvey E. Gabler	Ass't Plans & Training Officer
2nd Lt Horton R. Andrews	Supply & Transportation Officer
2nd Lt Ellis C. Atchison	Mess Officer
2nd Lt Ira Belth	Position Finding
2nd Lt George W. Gilmore	Wire Platoon
2nd Lt Francis J. Turner	Intercept Platoon
1st/Sgt Clarence E. Vinson	First Sergeant

Master Sergeants

Fay E. McDowell	Thomas D. Simmons
-----------------	-------------------

Staff Sergeants

Charles R. Dudley	Raymond L. McRae
Clinton E. Giebler	Edward J. Moses
James W. Himes	George H. Pollard
Robert N. Huber	Teddie I. Spuhler
Marvin H. Klein	Stanley J. Stevens

Technician Third Grade

James N. Nielsen

Sergeants

Franklin D. Kays	Michael J. Maslowski
Robert E. O'Brein	Gayle E. Toland

Technicians Fourth Grade

Joseph Berend	Vernon G. Bergmark
Jack M. Dellone	Donald H. Duffee
Ernest J. Frederickson	Serafino R. Garzone
Hyman L. Golomb	Thomas L. Gorbet
William H. Horton	George P. Johnson
Woodrwow G. Johnson	Arnold C. Julich
Clarence J. Junker	Robert L. Kelly
John J. Kuhn	Michael Krizan
Elmer E. Larson	Bernard B. Laudenklos
Jack D. Lease	Gus L. Lombardo
Frank E. McKenzie	Harry E. Martin
Andrew J. Merriman	Mathias M. Merzenich
Hubert C. Michel	Darwin D. Millet
Harold T. Planin	William R. Stahl
Arnold N. Stronstad	Cecil E. Sublett
Raymond Thurman	Carl T. White

Technicians Fifth Grade

Emmett A. Adler	Garrett W. Allen
Gilbert P. Apprill	Frank C. Argus
Chester S. Augustyn	Kenneth R. Bacon
Robert Bailey	Russell C. Bailey
Arthur M. Baker	Walter Baker
Ralph E. Barrickman	William D. Bedord
Guy F. Beier	John R. Bell
John F. Benson	Vance Benton
Willard D. Berry	Leonard A. Bigalke
Lester F. Bohlman	Robert D. Boland
Julius L. Briegel	Eugene F. Coleman
Floyd C. Desing	Lawrence E. Duffee
Gerald F. Dunseath	Harold Eisenstadt
Walter C. Glawe	Harold H. Griffith
Howard A. groth	William G. Grubb
Samuel Haber	Marion M. Holder
Francis V. Ingelsby	Guy E. Kropp
Lesley J. Lemen	Harry A. Lepley
Lester S. Lipschultz	Earl E. Lipscomb
Raymond L. Long	Joe S. Lopez
Benjamin K. Malakowsky	Tom M. McCoy
Burnette C. McGriff	Ralph W. Montgomery
Nicholas Nidositko	Carl O. Olson
Kenneth R. Omeg	Joseph A. Pitek
Richard D. Ramsey	Jack J. Reese
George W. Reid	Charles M. Robinson
David S. Rosenfeld	Paul A. Sakkinen
Lucien D. Savoie	Clarence R. Schiller
William P. Schneller	Palmer Schrag
Raymond C. Sherlock	Stanford W. Sterling
John F. Tangler	Joseph O. Tucker
Albert Updyke	William J. Valentine
Ray Venderlee	James D. Van Lear
Oscar Walchirk	Julius Weisman
Collis Whitaker	Henry J. Woltman
George G. Woodford, Jr.	Carroll B. Woody

Private First Class

Alvin R. Amenell	Philip S. Anderson
Wilfred M. Arneson	Thomas F. Atkinson
George Baker	Melvin L. Bass
James H. Blakeman	Hamer G. Brown
Louis A. Caravello	James A. Childs
Clarence W. Cornelius	Herbert N. Cole
Lloyd L. Cupp	Alvin Dahl
Clinton J. Falk	Norman H. Judge
Clarence J. Leahy	Harold J. Lien
Charles G. Linder	William D. Low
Gerhard E. Lyseng	Charles Maraquin
Charles J. McAleer	William F. McCanna
Thomas J. McLellan	Arthur O. Meinhart
George W. Mercer	Gordon E. Mesmer

John H. Metts
Clayton M. Nelson
Eino Passi
Wilbur A. Shepard
Clifford M. Tally
Donald E. Wagner
Irvin Yush

Elbert L. Mote, Jr.
Henry T. Owens
Gilbert Reyna
Henry Sorensen
Howard C. Van Deusen
William H. Warrick

Privates

Francisco Anaya
Alvin E. Artz
Joseph M. Bania
Tim H. Bates
Harold W. Berrie
Joseph C. Breit
Mike Cordova
Roy E. Crane
Charles M. Dawson
Thomas F. Dermody
Frank X. Dietl
Truman D. Elder
Leo E. Farrell
James D. Floyd
Albert Gonzales
Lorenz C. Grad
Donald S. Green
Henry L. Grunwald
Willard E. Hoobler
Clifton R. Irvine
Charles A. Johns
John S. Kiczewski
Sidney A. Knudtson
Edward Menominee
Otis A. Mortimer
Hunter W. Poteet
Ray H. Samis
Alvin A. Seltveit
Paul H. Smith
Emil Stainiger
John J. Szczygiel
George L. Thalhamer
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Herman R. Tyner
John H. Verbraken
Henry B. Williams
Buell H. Belyeu
Harold E. Gross
Elmer T. Paris
Arnold Reinken
John S. Sikora
Laverne H. Wulfert

Salvatore S. Aragona
Roland A. Bacon
Robert J. Barrett
Willard H. Baum
Burton R. Boerma
George L. Bruce
Everett W. Courtnage
Robert C. Dahill
Harold E. Delano
Carmel L. Devore
Homer L. Dyer
Louis F. Farmer
Willis F. Fladeboe
Weldon J. Gardner
Edward M. Goudzwaard
Roger E. Graner
Manuel U. Griego
Edward E. Hainlen
Earl Hood
Edward F. Jensen
Forest A. Johnson
Robert H. Kirby, Jr.
Samuel E. Little
Alejandro Moreno
Clement P. O'Neil
Robert H. Rubel
Eugene V. Schmidt
George T. Shinn
Theodore S. Socha
August J. Szczyпка
Alexander Tanyi
Benton H. Thornton
Richard C. Trimmer
Robert Tyler
Ivan C. Wheeland
Hursel Wise
Jesus F. Briones
Samuel B. Henderson
Stanley J. Radecki
Raymond H. Todd
Michael Tribote
George W. Young

----- END -----

COMPANY ROSTER – 25 Dec 1942

138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company
Fort George Wright, Washington

Command Staff

Captain Felix M. Marshall	Commanding Officer
1st Lt Harvey E. Gabler	Operations Officer
2nd Lt Horton R. Andrews	Supply & Transportation Officer
2nd Lt Francis J. Turner	Intercept Platoon
2nd Lt Ira Belth	Position Finding Platoon
2nd Lt George W. Gilmore	Wire Platoon
2nd Lt Ellis C. Atchison	Mess Officer
W.D. James W. Himes	Communications Specialist
1st/Sgt Clarence E. Vinson	First Sergeant

Master Sergeant

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William F. McCanna	Harry E. Martin
Andrew J. Merriman	Mathias M. Merzenich
Hubert C. Michel	Darwin D. Millet
Carl O. Olson	Harold T. Planin
Richard D. Ramsey	David S. Rosenfeld
Palmer Schrag	William R. Stahl
Arnold N. Stronstad	Cecil E. Sublett
Raymond Thurman	Carl T. White
Julius Weisman	

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William J. Valentine	Ray Venderlee
James D. Van Lear	John F. Warburton
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Goodwin Eisenson
Elmo E. Finnigan
Willis F. Fladaboe
Merlyn R. Guthier
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Edward M. Goudzwaard
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Hunter W. Poteet
Stanley J. Radecki
Robert H. Rubel
Dino Scalia
Eugene V. Schmidt
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John S. Sikora
Paul H. Smith
Emil Stainiger
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George W. Young

Alvin E. Artz
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Euell H. Belyeu
John Collins
Mike Cordova
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Robert E. Daly
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Theron G. Lydick
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Clement P. O'Neil
Elmer T. Paris
Thomas F. Piner
Lloyd T. Ronquist
Leonard J. Sadosky
Nicholas P. Schiller
Ollie Shoemake
George T. Shinn
Frank Smith
Theodore S. Socha
August J. Szczypka
Benton H. Thornton
Richard C. Trimmer
Joseph O. Tucker
Herman R. Tyner
Henry B. Williams

----- END -----



Front Cover

EXTRACT FROM AR 345-105, Nov 18, 1929

13. Form in which kept.--The history will be kept in the following form, the authority for each statement being cited:
- a. Original Unit.
 - (1) Designation.
 - (2) Date of Organization.
 - (3) Place of Organization.
 - (4) Authority for Organization.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained, i.e., by transfer from other units, voluntary enlistment, or draft.
 - b. Changes in organization, i.e., changes in the designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to changes in Tables of Organization
 - c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.
 - (1) At beginning of period.
 - (2) Net increase each month.
 - (3) Net decrease each month.
 - (4) At end of period.
 - d. Stations (permanent or temporary) of unit or parts thereof.
 - (1) Date of arrival at each station.
 - (2) Date of departure from each station.
 - e. Marches.
 - (1) Purpose.
 - (2) Length of daily march.
 - (3) Points between which marched, with dates.
 - (4) Condition of roads and weather.
 - (5) Remarks (other pertinent data).
 - f. Campaigns.
 - (1) Name of.
 - (2) Duration.
 - (3) Purpose.
 - (4) Authority ordering.
 - g. Battles.
 - (1) Name.
 - (2) Place.
 - (3) Date.
 - (4) Campaign of which battle was a part.
 - (5) Forces engaged.
 - (6) Result.
 - h. Commanding officers in important engagements.
 - (1) Engagement.
 - (2) Names.
 - (3) Killed.
 - (4) Wounded.
 - (5) Missing.
 - (6) Taken prisoner.
 - i. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action.
 - (1) Engagement.
 - (2) Names.
 - (3) Act.
 - (4) Reward.
 - k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events.

CATALOGUED

RETURN TO
RESEARCH STUDIES
INSTITUTE
U.S.A.F.
HISTORICAL DIVISION
ARCHIVES BRANCH

50-RAD-1-41
14 FEB. 1942 -
31 JAN. 1944

HISTORY OF SERVICES.— SCOPE:

* * * * *

THIS RECORD IS A BRIEF CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE COMPANY FROM ITS INCEPTION, AND CONTAINS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ORIGINAL FORMATION OR ORGANIZATION OF THE UNIT, NOTATIONS AS TO THE SOURCES FROM WHICH THE PERSONNEL WAS OBTAINED, SUCH AS BY TRANSFER FROM OTHER UNITS, VOLUNTARY ENLISTMENT, OR DRAFT, A STATEMENT OF ANY CHANGES IN THE DESIGNATION OF THE COMPANY, A RECORD OF THE STRENGTH OF THE ORGANIZATION AT ALL TIMES, ITS DIFFERENT STATIONS (SHOWING DATE OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE), ITS MARCHES, CAMPAIGNS, BATTLES, AND LOSSES IN ACTION, ITS VARIOUS COMMANDING OFFICERS, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION, AND A SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF PERSONNEL AT VARIOUS TIMES SHOWING IMPORTANT SCENES OR EVENTS.

FOR A COMPLETE GUIDE OF THE FORM AND CONTENTS OF THIS RECORD SEE AR 345-105.

138TH SIGNAL RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANY

ON FEBRUARY 14, 1942 PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN WD LETTER, AG 320.2 (1-19-42) MR-M-AFF/A-1, FEBRUARY 7, 1942, SUBJECT "CONSTITUTION AND ACTIVATION OF THE 136TH, 137TH, 138TH, 139TH, AND 140TH SIGNAL RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANIES", THE 138TH SIGNAL RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANY HAVING BEEN CONSTITUTED, WAS ACTIVATED. THE COMPANY WAS ASSIGNED TO THE SECOND AIR FORCE WITH STATION AT FORT GEORGE WRIGHT, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON.

ON FEBRUARY 25, 1942, 2ND LT. FELIX M. MARSHALL, SIGNAL CORPS, WAS RELIEVED FROM ASSIGNMENT AND DUTY WITH THE 404TH SIGNAL COMPANY, AVN, FORT GEORGE WRIGHT, WASHINGTON AND ASSIGNED TO THE NEW COMPANY, IMMEDIATELY ASSUMING COMMAND, PER SPECIAL ORDERS NO. 39, HEADQUARTERS SECOND AIR FORCE, DATED FEBRUARY 25, 1942. ON THE SAME DATE AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE SAME SPECIAL ORDERS, THE FIRST FILLER PERSONNEL WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THE 404TH SIGNAL COMPANY, AVN, AND 434TH SIGNAL MAINTENANCE CO, AVN, FORT GEORGE WRIGHT, WASHINGTON, AND THE 39TH SIGNAL PLATOON, AB, GEIGER FIELD, WASH. THE NUCLEUS OF THIS NEW COMPANY, CONSISTING OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER AND SIX ENLISTED MEN ONLY, REMAINED UNCHANGED IN NUMBERS UNTIL THE 7TH OF MARCH AT WHICH TIME ANOTHER MAN WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE ORGANIZATION.

ON THE 21ST OF FEBRUARY, 2ND LT MARSHALL, COMMANDING, WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF 1ST LT. WITH THE EFFECTIVE DATE RETROACTIVE TO FEBRUARY 1, 1942.

AT THE END OF MARCH 1942, THE COMPANY SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 5 ENLISTED MEN OVER THE ORIGINAL NUMBER.

APRIL 9, THE FIRST LARGE CONTINGENT OF 18 MEN OF FILLER PERSONNEL ARRIVED, TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE SECOND GROUP OF 16 MEN, THIRD GROUP OF 41 MEN AND FOURTH AND FIFTH GROUPS, UNTIL BY THE END OF APRIL OUR TOTAL STRENGTH AMOUNTED TO ONE OFFICER AND 109 ENLISTED MEN. MEANWHILE PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR PLANS FOR PERMANENT QUARTERS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES.

MAY 1, 1942 SAW THE ADDITION OF 2ND LT. HAROLD G. HARBIN TO THE OFFICER PERSONNEL OF THIS COMPANY.

Then on MAY 1, THE GROWING RANKS WERE FURTHER SWELLED BY THE ADDITION OF 93 MORE FILLER PERSONNEL RAISING THE COMPANY STRENGTH TO 202 ENLISTED MEN AND 2 OFFICERS. ON MAY 18, 32 MEN LEFT THE RANKS OF THE 138TH, BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE 404TH SIGNAL COMPANY, AFD, THIS STATION, LEAVING THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY AT 167 ENLISTED MEN AND 2 OFFICERS, AS OF THE END OF THE MONTH.

ON THE 13TH OF MAY THE COMPANY PARTICIPATED IN A POST PARADE IN COMPETITION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. DUE TO THE SPLENDID SHOWING MADE, WE WERE INFORMED BY THE POST ADJUTANT THAT THE FIRST PLATOON OF THE COMPANY WALKED OFF WITH THE HONORS AND THAT THE ORGANIZATION AS A WHOLE MADE AN EXCELLENT APPEARANCE.

OUR RANKS WERE FURTHER DEPLETED WITH THE TRANSFER OF 10 MORE MEN TO THE 404TH SIGNAL COMPANY, AFD, ON JUNE 8, 1942. DURING THIS PERIOD PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR MOVING FROM OUR TEMPORARY BARRACKS TO BUILDING 26-A. JUNE 19 SAW THE CONSUMMATION OF THE PLANS AND ON THIS DATE THE MOVE WAS COMPLETED AND THE MEN HOUSED IN THE NEW QUARTERS.

AGAIN INROADS WERE MADE ON THE ENLISTED PERSONNEL WITH THE TRANSFER OF 8 MEN TO THE 316TH AIR BASE SQUADRON, THIS STATION, ON JUNE 24, AND TRANSFER OF 7 MEN ON JUNE 30, TO THE 7TH COM SQ, II GROUND AIR SUPPORT, ALSO THIS STATION. HOWEVER, THE OFFICER PERSONNEL WAS INCREASED WITH THE JOINING OF 2ND LT. ANDREWS, SO THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY AT THE END OF JUNE STOOD AT 3 OFFICERS AND 140 ENLISTED MEN.

AS PART OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM IN JUNE, THE MEN FIRED THE SMALLBORE RIFLE, COURSE 'G' ON JUNE 4 AND 5.

THE MONTH OF JULY SAW VERY LITTLE CHANGE IN PERSONNEL, THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY REMAINING FAIRLY CONSTANT, SO THAT AT THE END OF THE MONTH THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS REMAINED THE SAME AND THE NUMBER OF ENLISTED MEN REDUCED TO 137. HOWEVER, DURING THE MONTH THE COMPANY ENTERED AN INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE IN MARKSMANSHIP AND MANUAL OF ARMS IN ADDITION TO NUMEROUS FIELD PROBLEMS SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED TO COMPLETION.

OUR COMPANY WAS CALLED UPON TO PERFORM AN UNUSUAL

SERVICE ON JULY 25, WHEN FIRE STARTING NEAR THE FORK OF THE SEVEN MILE AND NINE MILE ROADS, SPOKANE, WASH, SWEEP OVER 2,000 ACRES AND THREATENED HOMES AND PROPERTY ON THE LITTLE SPOKANE AND FIVE MILE PRAIRIE. COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTING THE FIRE FIGHTERS WAS SET UP AND OPERATED BY THE MEN OF OUR COMPANY, AND GREATLY FACILITATED IN COORDINATING THE EFFORTS OF THE FIRE FIGHTERS.

ON AUGUST 2, 1942, 22 ENLISTED MEN LEFT THE COMPANY, BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE 955TH RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANY, DAVIS-MONTHAN FIELD, TUCSON, ARIZONA. AUGUST 11, SAW THE PROMOTION OF 2ND LT HARBIN TO THE RANK OF 1ST LT. HOWEVER, ON AUGUST 25, 1ST LT. HARBIN WAS RELIEVED FROM ASSIGNMENT AND DUTY AND ASSIGNED TO THE 955TH RADIO INTELLIGENCE COMPANY. THEN ON AUGUST 29, 9 ENLISTED MEN WERE TRANSFERRED IN GRADE TO THE SIGNAL CORPS UNASSIGNED, BUT REMAINED HERE FOR RATIONS AND QUARTERS, LEAVING THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY AT 2 OFFICERS AND 104 ENLISTED MEN.

ON SEPTEMBER 9, M/SGT WALL WAS DISCHARGED TO ACCEPT COMMISSION AS 1ST LT AND AS SUCH JOINED THE COMPANY ON SEPTEMBER 11. ON THE 26TH, 2ND LTS GILMORE, TURNER AND BERTH ALSO JOINED THE COMPANY. THIS DATE ALSO SAW THE ADDITION OF 12 ENLISTED MEN, 7 JOINING FROM NATIONAL SCHOOLS, LOS ANGELES, AND THE REMAINDER FROM HEADQUARTERS INFANTRY RTC, CAMP ROBERTS, CALIF. FURTHER ADDITIONS WERE MADE ON SEPTEMBER 27 WITH THE ARRIVAL OF 5 MEN FROM SCRTC FORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, SWELLING THE RANKS TO 6 OFFICERS AND 123 ENLISTED MEN.

ON OCTOBER 2, 2ND LT ATCHISON JOINED THIS COMPANY. ON OCTOBER 1, 23 MORE ENLISTED MEN JOINED BUT THIS NUMBER WAS SLIGHTLY OFFSET WITH THE TRANSFER OF 8 MEN FROM THE COMPANY ON OCTOBER 10. THEN ON OCTOBER 17, 10 MEN JOINED, OCTOBER 25, 12 MEN, OCTOBER 26, 5 MEN AND ON OCTOBER 27, THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY WAS RAISED TO 255 ENLISTED MEN WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A CONTINGENT FROM NATIONAL SCHOOLS, LOS ANGELES, AND ANOTHER FROM ARMY RADIO SCHOOL, MIDLAND DIVISION, KANSAS CITY, MO. WITH THE ARRIVAL OF 1ST LT GASLER ON OCTOBER 26, THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS WAS INCREASED TO 8.

NOVEMBER 2, SAW THE LOSS OF 28 MEN THROUGH TRANSFER TO THE 310TH SIGNAL COMPANY, WING, THIS STATION. THIS LOSS WAS, HOWEVER, OFFSET BY REPLACEMENTS DURING THE MONTH WHICH SAW THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY AT THE 245 FIGURE AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH. THE OFFICER PERSONNEL WAS CHANGED, HOWEVER, WITH THE LOSS OF 1ST LT BALL WHO WAS RELIEVED FROM ASSIGNMENT AND DUTY THIS COMPANY AND ASSIGNED TO THE 954TH SIG RAD INF CO, GEIGER FIELD, WASHINGTON, AS OF NOVEMBER 24. ON NOVEMBER 28, 1942, COMMANDING OFFICER MARSHALL WAS APPOINTED CAPTAIN.

ARMISTICE DAY THE COMPANY PARTICIPATED IN A RETREAT PARADE. WE WERE GIVEN THE HONOR OF FURNISHING THE COLOR GUARD. PICTURES OF THE COLOR GUARD FORMS PART OF THIS COMPANY HISTORY FILE.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A FESTIVE AIR FOR THANKSGIVING, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE TO PERMIT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY TO INVITE GUESTS TO A SPECIAL DINNER. PICTURES OF THE OFFICERS AND THEIR GUESTS AND OF THE KITCHEN PERSONNEL WERE TAKEN AND ARE NOW PART OF THIS COMPANY HISTORY.

ALL OF THE OFFICERS AND THEIR GUESTS, TOGETHER WITH THE ENLISTED MEN AND THEIR GUESTS ATTENDED THIS DINNER. NEEDLESS TO SAY IT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL.

ON DECEMBER 6, 1942 S/SGT HIMES WAS DISCHARGED TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT AS WARRANT OFFICER (WA) AND EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 7, ASSUMED HIS DUTIES AS SUCH WITH THIS COMPANY. VERY LITTLE CHANGE OCCURRED IN THE NUMBER OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL, THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY NUMBERING 259 MEN, 7 OFFICERS AND 1 WARRANT OFFICER. HOWEVER, WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF 2ND LT. ANDREWS TO RANK OF 1ST LT. OUR OFFICER PERSONNEL CONSISTED OF ONE CAPTAIN, TWO 1ST LTS, FOUR 2ND LTS AND ONE WARRANT OFFICER.

IN ORDER TO OBSERVE THE SPIRIT OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, THE MEN OF THE COMPANY OBTAINED THE NECESSARY ADORNMENTS AND DECORATED THE DAY ROOM. A HUGE CHRISTMAS TREE GAILY TRIMMED PROVIDED THE NEEDED TOUCH. CHRISTMAS DAY THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE COMPANY AGAIN INVITED THEIR GUESTS TO DINNER IN THE COMPANY MESS HALL.

WITH THE START OF THE NEW YEAR AN INTENSIFIED TRAINING PROGRAM WAS INAUGURATED. THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL CHANGED VERY LITTLE, THE FIGURE AS OF THE END OF JANUARY BEING 7 OFFICERS, 1 WARRANT OFFICER AND 257 ENLISTED MEN.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY WAS SLIGHTLY REDUCED BY THE TRANSFER OF ENLISTED MEN, SO THAT AT THE END OF THE MONTH THE NUMBER OF ENLISTED MEN TOTALLED 252 WITH 7 OFFICERS AND 1 WARRANT OFFICER.

ON FEBRUARY 27, THE ENTIRE COMPANY ASSEMBLED ON THE COMPANY DRILL FIELD WHERE PICTURES WERE TAKEN OF THE COMPANY AS A WHOLE. AN INDIVIDUAL PICTURE OF THE OFFICER PERSONNEL WAS ALSO TAKEN. COPIES OF THESE PICTURES ARE NOW IN OUR COMPANY HISTORY FILE.

MARCH 7, 1ST LT ANDREWS WAS RELIEVED FROM ASSIGNMENT AND DUTY, THIS COMPANY AND TRANSFERRED TO THE 18TH REPLACEMENT WING, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. THE VACANCY WAS FILLED BY THE ASSIGNMENT TO THIS COMPANY OF 1ST LT. PAINTER ON MARCH 9, 1943.

ON MARCH 6, TECH 5TH GR HOWARD A. GROTH WAS DISCHARGED TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT AS WARRANT OFFICER (JG) AND AS SUCH ASSUMED DUTY WITH THIS COMPANY. WITH THE ADDITION OF TWO MEN FROM THE 420TH SIGNAL COMPANY, AVN, THREE MEN FROM THE 852ND SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANY, AVN, AND FOUR MEN FROM THE 18TH REPLACEMENT WING, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, RAISING THE TOTAL ENLISTED MEN TO 266, THE COMPANY HIT AN ALL TIME HIGH IN NUMBER OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL. WITH THE PROMOTIONS OF 2ND LTS ARCHISON AND GILMORE TO THE RANK OF 1ST LTS, THE STANDING IN STRENGTH OF THE OFFICERS AS OF THE END OF MARCH WAS ONE CAPTAIN, 4 - 1ST LTS, TWO 2ND LTS, AND TWO WARRANT OFFICERS.

THE ENTIRE COMPANY FIRED THE US RIFLE CALIBER .30 M-1903 FOR QUALIFICATION, AND THE THOMPSON SUB-MACHINE GUN, COMPLETING THE RANGE FIRING ON MARCH 18, 1943. OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN FIRING 42% QUALIFIED.

Throughout the month of April, except for three changes, the strength of the Company remained at a constant figure. 1 Captain 4 1st Lts., 2 2nd Lts., 1 WO(S) and 266 EM comprised the personnel of the Organization as of the 30th of April 1943.

May 2nd Captain Marshall (Commanding Officer) and 3 EM Constituted an Advance Party to Fort Dix, New Jersey. 1st Lt. Gabler Assumed command.

4th May saw the Company entrain for permanent change of station, across the continent to Fort Dix, New Jersey.

9th May the Organization detrained at Fort Dix, New Jersey (Overseas staging area) and Captain Marshall again assumed command.

Left Fort Dix, N.J. by train and arrived at Staten Island to board the United States Army Transport Uruguay on 14th of May.

Set sail at 0550 15th May, thus start the journey for overseas service. Living quarters on the Uruguay were badly crowded.

21st May we arrived at the Panama Canal and the 22nd May passage was made through the Canal.

Thus the end of May saw the Organization at sea aboard the U.S.A.T. Uruguay somewhere in mid-Pacific.

Company strength the end of April was: 1 Captain, 4 1st Lts., 2 2nd Lts., 1 WO(S) and ²⁵¹ 751 Enlisted Men.

10th of June the international date-line was crossed losing entirely the 4th of June. U.S.A.T. Uruguay arrived at Brisbane (Queensland) Australia on the 14th of June. Company disembarked on 15th June and marched to Camp Doomban (Brisbane) where headquarters was established.

Thru the loss of a few men to the General Hospital the strength of the Company was reduced to 1 Captain, 4 1st Lts., 2 2nd Lts., 1 WO(S) and 248 E.M.

July - Except for the joining of 2nd Lt Tingley and 7 E.M. only routine duties occupied the month of July. Thus 1 Capt, 4 1st Lts, ~~3~~ 2nd Lts, 1 WO(S) and 156 E.M. made up the total strength of the Organization as of the last of July.

August was again crowded with a multitude of rapid moving events. 2nd August the first contingent of the Advance Echelon consisting of 1st Lt Painter, 2nd Lt Turner and 44 EM left Brisbane for Port Moresby, New Guinea. The second Contingent composed of 2nd Lts, Balth and Tingley, W/O Himes and 68 EM departed Brisbane for Port Moresby on 3 August closely followed by the 3rd contingent consisting of Capt Marshall (C.O.) 1st Lt Gabler and 43 EM, which left the 4th of August. 1st Lt Gilmore and 99 EM were left at Camp Doomben, Brisbane to form the Rear Echelon. Headquarters was set up close to Headquarters Advance Echelon Fifth Air Force about 10 miles from Port Moresby, and Camp was established.

August 31st, the Advance Echelon of the 3rd Operating Platoon departed for duty at Dobadura. Company strength still stands at 1 Captain 4 1st Lts, 3 2nd Lts, 1 W/O (JG) and 256 EM as of last of August.

September 11 - Rear Echelon under command of Lt Gilmore arrived by boat fr Brisbane to rejoin this organization. On the 29th of September the rear Echelon, 3rd Operating Platoon (6 EM) left to join outfit at Dobadura.

Organization had its first Red Air Raid Alert on 20th September at 0400, closely followed by Red Alerts on the 21st and 22nd. No casualties, no damage. First casualty occurred on September 28th when a stray bullet from a .45 Calibre weapon injured T/S Stauffer in the head. Wound was not too serious and EM was back to duty in a few days.

There was no great change in personnel and the Company strength remains at 10 officers and 257 enlisted men.

The month of October was rather uneventful. 1st Lt Toothaker was assigned to our organization and attached to the 126th Sig Rad Int Co, APO 923, along with 5 EM. Lt Gilmore assumed command of the 3rd Operating Platoon at Dobadura and Lt Balth returned to this Headquarters. On the 17th Captain Marshall, Lt Balth and 8 EM left for detached Service with Signal Intelligence Division, USAF 775 at Brisbane, Australia. 30 EM left the same day for detached Service with 126th Sig Rad Int Co, Brisbane Australia. This is the first time Captain Marshall has been

absent from his command for more than a few days. 1st Lt. Gabler assumed Command. On the 30th of October, Pfc Finnigan, became the first man to be evacuated to the mainland as a result of serious burns received in the line of duty. On the 17th we had another red Alert. Nothing happened. The Personnel strength of the Organization now stands at 9 officers, 1 WOJG and 261 EM as of the 31st of October.

The first few days of November passed without incident. On the 6th we had another Nuisance Air Alert. Again no damage. The 13th of November was a milestone in the life of this Organization. On this date the 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company was redesignated the 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, Aviation effective 13 November 1943 per Par 2, Secret General Order No 274 Headquarters FIFTH AIR FORCE, APO 925 dated 13th November 1943 and WAR DEPARTMENT letter AG 322 (28 Oct 1943) OB-1-AFRPG-14, dated 29 October 1943. We had another Air Raid Alert on the 18th of November. Sgt Tarno H. Fudenna was transferred in Grade to Headquarters Squadron, Fifth Air Force, APO 925. On the 23rd T/5 Clarence R. Schiller was evacuated to the mainland. Pvt. Abraham I. Silber was also evacuated to the mainland for further hospitalization. Thus the number of men evacuated has been increased to three. Lt Gabler, Lt Turner and 14 members of the first Operating Platoon were placed on TD at APO 713. 1st Lt Painter assumed Command. Thus the strength of the Organization was 9 officers, 1 WOJG and 258 EM as of 30 November 1943.

The first day of December a Company Order was published listing 32 promotions. On the 5th of December the first furlough while overseas was granted to an EM. The same day the sirens told us another Red Air Raid Alert was at hand, however it was of no consequence. 1st Lt Gabler returned from Gusap and assumed Command on 6th of December. Three more EM were granted furloughs and departed on Dec 9th. On the 10th of December orders were received promoting 2nd Lts,

Balth, Tingley and Turner to 1st Lt with date of rank from December 7th 1943.

On the 13th of December 1st Lt Toothaker joined from DS with 35 EM from 126th Sig Rad Int Co, APO 933. On the 14th of December 3 EM were sent to join the 1st Operating Platoon at Gusap. On the 15th 8 more EM left for the 1st Platoon. Captain Marshall and 8 EM returned from DS with Sig Int Division USAFFE on December 15th. Captain Marshall assumed command. On December 18th another Company Order was published listing 31 Promotions. One EM was transferred from the Organization on December 22nd. On the 24 of December 1st Lts Gabler and Painter and 10 EM were placed on DS at Sig Int Division: USAFFE. 1st Lt Tingley and T/sgt Thornton were placed on Temporary Duty at Camp Pinedale, Calif. It was quite a thrill to know they were returning to the States. Lt Toothaker was sent to the 3rd Platoon at Dobodura to relieve Lt Gilmore for duty at the 1st Platoon at Gusap. Lt Turner was relieved from duty at the 1st Platoon and was evacuated because of illness. The strength of the Company as of December 31st 1943 was 1 Captain, 8 1st Lts, 1 WOJG and 257 EM.

1944

The New Year of 1944 was celebrated by sending Sgt Arneson to the hospital with a flesh wound in his right arm caused by a stray bullet. One EM was transferred out on the 10th of January. A Company Order was published on January 11th listing 12 promotions. January 15th another EM was evacuated to the mainland of Australia. On January 22nd a company Order was published making 70 additional promotions. Captain Marshall and 70 EM left January 24th for Nadzab New Guinea for purpose of establishing a new camp. The Company was again changing station. 1st Lt. Atchison assumed command. On January 27th 3 EM. Tec 4 Craig, Tec 4 Gudgel and Cpl Gardner left for Brisbane Australia to attend Officer's Candidate School. Six EM of the 2nd Platoon left for Nadzab on January 28th for permanent change of station. All travel of Advance Echelon and 2nd Platoon was by Air. Captain Marshall

returned from Nadzab and assumed command on January 29th.
1st Lt. Gilmore was transferred from the 1st Platoon
at Gusap and placed in command of the Advance
Echelon and 2nd Platoon at Nadzab. The last two
days of January saw the evacuation of WSG.
Himes and 4 EM to Australia. Thus at the end
of January, through transfer and losses due to
sickness the organizational strength dropped to
1 CAPTAIN, 8 1st Lts, and 248 EM.

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