

101st PHOTO SECTION

MISSION

LINEAGE

101st Photo Section

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

1Lt Randolph E. Churchill, #1939

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Selected and numerous details were energetically striving to develop a first-class field in record time, the nucleus of the 101st Photo Section arrived at the field.

The personnel consisted of 1st Lt. Fort, Sgt. Icl. Dix, Privates Dame and Behrens. They immediately busied themselves in making plans for their photographic laboratory. Shortly afterwards, Privates Poole and Akin were sent to Chatillon to assist in the photographic work. With the assistance of Privates Brandt and Conrad, of the 89th Aero Squadron, the laboratory at this school was constructed, and on May 7th this small force was prepared to

produce favorable results with any plates that the first seven observers might furnish.

As the school grew, the laboratory in use became entirely too small for satisfactorily completing all work necessitated in the training of 80 observers each month. Plans for a new building were drawn, apparatus, supplies and materials were requisitioned and more photographic experts were assigned to this command. By November 1st the new photographic laboratory was completed and contained everything to be found in a modern field laboratory.

This section was officially made the 101st Photo Section on November 11, 1918, after which promotions followed according to the standard form of assignments.

The section then consisted of one officer, 1st Lt. Edwin H. Fort, a photographer of wide newspaper experience in the States, and M. E. Thos. H. Dix, with many years of army experience and who "avant la guerre" made photos in the Philippines and from the frozen fields of Alaska to the scorching and barren deserts of Mexico. Sgt. Icl. R. F. Poole, Sgts. Roy Dane, Romeo A. Decelle and Homer Tinney are photographers who have made pictures hanging from the smallest bacteria to the huge and rugged animals of the wild and wooley West. Equally successful in the photographic world have been Corporals George Behrens, Arthur Brooke, Wenner Funk, Henry Garrett, Brault Pendleton and A. Decker; Pvts. Icl. Max Aikin, Henry Atkins, Victor Buck, Irvin Chaple, Zenas Jenks, Frank Webb and D. Cramm. Our draftsmen, Sgt. Willis Slayton, Cpls. Roach, Ingle and Pvt. Icl. Douglas, have figured successfully in engineering problems. First Lt. Robert C. Frost, an observer of experience from the front, was temporarily assigned to the section. He was later succeeded by Lt. Franklin C. McGaughy, who, in turn, was relieved by 1st Lt. Richard F. Harris. Under these officers, the work of the 101st Photo Section has been kept at a high standard of efficiency.

On November 26th, the 101st Photo Section was authorized at this school, with 1st Lt. Edwin H. Fort, A. S., in charge. The personnel then detailed with the photo department were assigned to this section. Due to illness, Lt. Fort, was relieved of command of the Photo Section on January 20th, 1919, by 1st Lt. Richard F. Harris, A. S., who reported from the 15th Aero Squadron, which had been serving on the front. 1st Lt. Everett Bradley, F. A., was assigned to staff, Vice 1st Lt. Edwin H. Fort, A. S., relieved on the 26th of November.

PHOTOGRAPHY

THERE IS magic in the words. One thinks of wonderful cameras, beautiful pictures, interesting experiments, and more or less of a recreation. Well, it's all that and one thing in addition, called W-O-R-K. For when the sun shines, or even when it only partly shines forth, the students take the pictures, perllaps a matter of six or seven hundred on a good day, and these must all be handled in their development, drying and marking, and then the draftsmen of the department must carefully indicate each picture on the map to scale, showing the overlap, etc.

The beginning of this small, active department was in keeping with the tribulations of the other

departments. First, in getting something to work with, and then in finding a place to work in. The first officer on the job, Lt. Edwin C. Fort, an old man in the picture business, was a busy man in the early days, and to him is due a great amount of the credit for the present fine establishment. Next in line for honor is Master Electrician Dix, whose energy is only exceeded by his happy disposition.

The present photographic officer, Lt. Richard F. Harris, came to us after several months' service as commanding officer of a special headquarters photo section on the St. Mihiel sector. Also a man of wide photographic experience, he stepped into the middle of things and furnished a new inspiration for the large amount of aerial historical work that was required for this vicinity and incidentally for the "Battle of Chatillon."

The Photo Department is the 101st Photo Section; they of the department are troubled with no outside complications. No job is too big nor too complicated for them, no one with greater ambition, love of work or sense of duty.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.