

THE PHOTO LAB

OUR PHOTO LABRATORY, WE THINK, IS ONE OF THE BEST EQUIPPED LABROTORIES OF THE BOMBER GROUP CHAIN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE EQUIPMENT IS OF THE LATEST TYPE AND THE BUILDING ALLOTED FOR THIS WORK IS CONDUCIVE TO EARNEST WORK WITHOUT TOO MANY INTERUPPTIONS. THE ENLISTED STAFF OF EIGHTEEN MEN, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF 1ST LT. JOSEPH H. FISCHER, HAVE EITHER HAD EXTENSIVE PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK IN CIVILIAN LIFE, OR HAVE ATTENDED ONE OF THE ARMY SCHOOLS OF PHOTOGRAPHY. LT. FISCHER RECEIVED HIS COMMISSION AFTER GRADUATION FROM THE ARMY AIR SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY AT YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN, CONN.

THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THIS SECTION IS THE INSTALLATION OF CAMERAS FOR BOMBING MISSIONS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEGATIVES TAKEN DURING THE MISSION. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF THE WORK DONE IN THIS RESPECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"ALERTED FROM GROUP OPERATIONS--FORMATION PLAN RECEIVED FROM GROUP OPNS--ALERT PHOTO TECHNICIANS AND START THE BALL AROLLING. FIRST OF ALL, DECIDE ON WHAT PLANES WILL CARRY CAMERAS AND THE TYPE CAMERA. THIS IS DONE AND THE MEN GET TO WORK. THE CAMERAS ARE CARRIED TO THE PLANES AND THE DELICATE WORK OF WIRING THEM TO THE AUTOMATIC BOMB RELEASE AND THE BOMS IS STARTED. THIS IS FINALLY ACOOMPLISHED, THE WORK IS PASSED AS OK BY THE PHOTO CHIEF. THE CREWS ARRIVE AT THE SHIPS AND ONE EM FAMILIAR WITH THE INSTALLATION IS ON HAND TO BRIEF THE BOMBARDIER ON THE CAMERA INSTALLED. WHEN THE A/C ARRIVE BACK TO THE BASE, THE EM ARE ON HAND TO REMOVE THE CAMERAS, TAKE THEM TO THE LAB AND START THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEGATIVES.

THE FILMS ARE DEVELOPED, PRINTED, SORTED AND FORWARDED TO THE DIVISION WITHIN THREE HOURS. ONE SET OF PRINTS ARE FORWARDED TO THE GROUP PHOTO INTERPRETER AND THE RESULTS ARE FOLLOWED UP BY LT. FISCHER.

IN ADDITION TO THEIR AERIAL DUTY, EXTENSIVE GROUND WORK IS ALSO ACCOMPLISHED. THERE ARE PASSPORT PICTURES TO BE TAKEN OF THE COMBAT CREWS, PUBLIC RELATION PHOTOS FOR THE PRO OFFICER, PICTURES OF PIECES OF FLAK FOUND IN THE SHIPS, PHOTOS OF ENGINES, BATTLE DAMAGE AND MODIFICATION OF A/C. ALL GRADES OF ECHELON MAINTANENCE ON CAMERAS AND OTHER APPARATUS SUCH AS PRINTING MACHINES, DEVELOPING, DRYING MACHINES ARE PERFORMED RIGHT IN THE LAB AND VERY LITTLE IF ANY WORK SENT OUT TO THE LARGER DEPOTS. ON HAND THEIR IS APPROXIMATELY A STOCK OF 18 K-21'S AND 10 K-20'S. NO MATTER HOW INSIGNIFICANT OR IMPORTANT A JOB MAY BE, A PRINT AND NEGATIVE OF ALL PHOTOS TAKEN ARE KEPT IN THE WELL INDEXED FILE.