

HEADQUARTERS 27TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Signal Officer
APO 27

18 July 1945

SUBJECT: Signal Corps Technical Information Letter Material.

TO : Chief Signal Officer (SPSAY), Washington 25, D.C.
(Thru channels)

1. The enclosed photographs were taken in Okinawa during Phase I, Nansai Shoto Operation. They show one of the two switchboard trailers actually used by the 27th Signal Company during the operation. These views are for the most part self explanatory and are being sent for whatever information value they may contain.

2. In the planning for amphibious operations, invariably, severe curtailment of the number of vehicles to be combat loaded can be expected. For this reason, as well as the poor road nets that exist on islands and atolls, a switchboard vehicle as such has long been impracticable.

3. Therefore, a switchboard trailer was designed by the 27th Signal Company, 27th Infantry Division. 1st Lt Robert L. Sayre, O-1638427 and Technical Sergeant Robert E. Offer, 6837888, T & T Section, 27th Signal Company, actually designed the trailer and supervised its construction. Two such trailers were constructed and were first used in the Nansai Shoto Operation on Okinawa. They were entirely satisfactory.

4. The general idea is not revolutionary, but a few features might be brought out.

a. The designing incorporated the use of a one (1) ton trailer. Two (2) Centrals were built to provide movement in echelon.

b. The Central's mobility is a definite asset. Time of movement and installation is reduced to a minimum.

c. Working conditions for the operators are substantially improved, in that the Central is always dry and comfortable.

d. It is complete in itself, all necessary telephone equipment needed for a Division C.P. installation is contained in the various cabinets and compartments.

e. The Switchboard is installed in such a manner that it can be quickly and easily removed if necessary.

f. A Test Set for the Wire Chief is installed on the left side of the Central next to the ED-97. This set faces the outside as does the ED-97. A small table for the Wire Chief's use is hinged in front of the Test Set, and may be folded up when in transit. An awning on each side extends the roof and provides a convenient place in which the Wire Chief can work. At night, all around black-out can be achieved by dropping the canvas sides.

g. A built-in seat is provided for the operator. The back half of this seat is hinged so as to give access to the compartment below without disturbing the operator. This compartment provides storage space for twenty-two (22) EE-8 Telephones.

h. A cabinet is built into the right side of the Central opposite from the Test Set. This provides storage space for batteries, tape, tags and incidentals. This cabinet opens outwardly with the exception of the top compartment which opens on the inside of the Central and provides a storage space for the operators head and chest set, spare hand-sets, etc.

i. Moisture from the air during wet weather has a tendency to get into the Cords of the Switchboard and reduce their efficiency. To overcome this, a "V" shaped plywood frame (not shown in the pictures) was built which can be placed under the Switchboard to inclose the cords. A light bulb placed within provides heat to drive out the moisture in the cords.

j. Ground Rods, Wire Pikes, and the terminating pole are stored in a compartment situated beneath the ED-97 and the Test Set. These are made accessible by lowering the tail gate of the Central.

k. Two (2) storage batteries were installed on the front of the Central. These were used alternately and they provided power for the M-222 Converter, the operators talking circuit, and lights for both the operator and Wire Chief. When recharging was necessary, it was done at the Signal Company Motor Pool.

l. A Terminating Pole built from scrap aluminum tubing provides a facility for incoming lines. It is detachable and is carried in the Central during a move.

m. The Test Set that is installed on each of the Mobile Switching Centrals, incorporates the features of a EE-65-F Test Set, plus the addition of five (5) drops with corresponding test leads, and a night alarm

system. With this set it is possible to have as many as five (5) lines on test at one time. This eliminates the necessity of the operator working with the lineman and tying up the board when there is more than one line out. This set has proven to be a practicable adaptation of the EE-65-F Test Set.

Matthew C. MacLaughlin
MATTHEW C. MAC LAUGHLIN,
Major, SigC
Division Signal Officer

Incls: Nine (9) Prints.

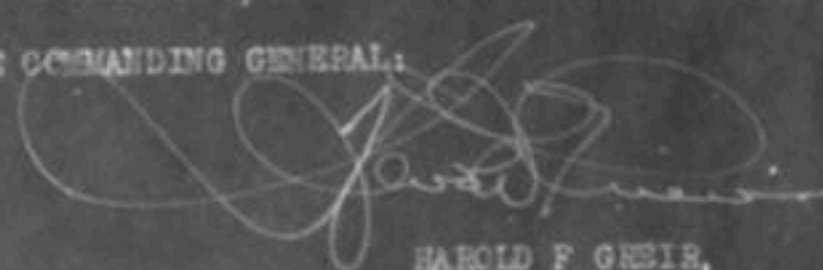
AG 413.42 1st Ind.
HQ 27TH INF DIV, APO 27, 20 July 1945.

AG/RPO/5.

TO: CG, Island Command, APO 331.

It is believed that basic report may be of general interest.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:



9 Incls.
n/c

HAROLD F. GREIS,
Lt Col, AGD,
Adjutant General.

413.42 (TDSIG) 2d Ind
HEADQUARTERS ISLAND COMMAND, APO 331, 25 JUL 1945

TO: Commanding General, Tenth Army, APO 357.

Forwarded for consideration of the Chief Signal Officer.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

P. L. Nash
P. L. NASH
MAJOR, AGD,
ASST. ADJUTANT GENERAL

9 Incls:
n/c

A.G. 413.42 (18 Jul 45)



10A/POA-144-45-499

10A/POA-144-45-499
View of the left side of the trailer showing switch board operator Pfc. Jake Dewitte 422 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. Note: All views of the left side of trailer have the awning cover rolled back.



10A/POA-144-45-501

The right side of trailer has the compartment for the spare parts for the communications trailer. This is a general view of the view of the right side of the trailer.



10A/POA-144-45-502

View of left side of trailer
designed by Sgt. Robert E. Offer
showing frame of switchboard test
set (improvement on the EE-65-E
set) with Pfc. Jake Dewitte
attaching wire to terminating
pole.

10A/POA-144-45-498

General view of trailer
while Lt. Robert L. Sayre,
Bearstown, Ill., of the
telephone and teletype
section discusses its
use with Sgt. Robert E.
Offer, 1515 F. Ave.,
National City, Calif.



10A/POA-144-45-500

This front view of Sgt. Robert E. Offer's designed communications trailer shows Pfc Jake DeWitte Switchboard Operator and face view of switchboard.





10A/POA-144-45-505

This rear view of communications trailer by Sgt. Robert E. Offer, shows space available for packing equipment.

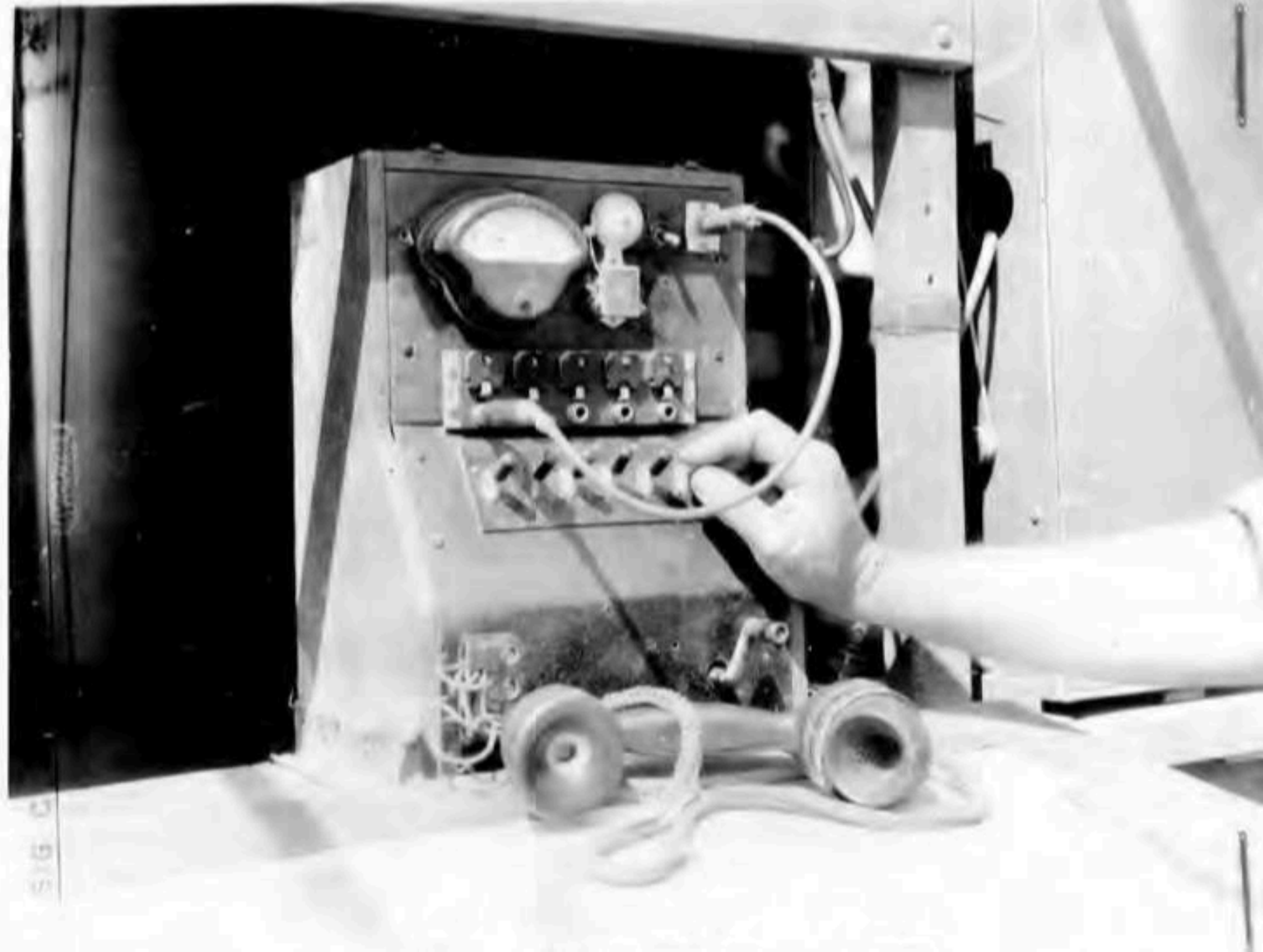


10A/POA-144-45-503
View of left side of
communications trailer
showing WC equipment and
switchboard frame with
Sgt. Robert E. Offer,
designer of trailer.

* SIG. C. 1 U S ARMY 3240 SIG SV. DET. H.B. 9 *

10A/POA-144-45-497

This is the test set designed by Sgt. Robert E. Offer, 1515 F. Avenue, National City, Calif. This test set is an improvement on the EE-65-E set and Sgt. Offer has found valuable use of it with his communications trailer.





10A/POA-144-45-504

Left side of communications trailer showing switchboard frame and WC equipment with Sgt. Robert E. Offer and Pfc. William A. Gimbal at terminating pole.