



LGR /mw

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Office of the Signal Officer
Army Pictorial Service
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

29 March 1945

APS BULLETIN

No. 2

TO: All photographic personnel

1. We are faced with a critical shortage of photographic supplies; motion picture film, film packs and cut film, flash bulbs, paper, chemicals, replacement parts for cameras, etc. In this connection, the attached Fifth Army circular is self-explanatory. It was executed in an effort to conserve our present stocks of photo supplies, and to reduce the demands made upon us for coverage unessential to the war effort.

2. It will be necessary for us to carry out further economies in our own coverage – mainly by the exercise of restraint, editorial judgment and common sense. Our work is evaluated here and by the War Department in terms of quality as well as quantity; not by the amount of footage or number of pictures as much as how well the coverage tells the story. These facts should be kept in mind when you approach a subject for coverage. Is it interesting? Has it “spot news” value? Does it convey anything of possible interest to the War Department? Will it contribute anything to the war effort? Does it have a tactical or technical value?

3. Combat material still remains the topmost category of what is demanded of all photographers in the field. But better planning should go into this coverage if it is to be of value to the War Department and the newsreels and papers. The advance of infantry is always interesting, but the supporting arms should be considered and covered whenever possible in order to present a complete picture of operations. The geography of operations is likewise vital for the

historical record and other purposes; we must continue to identify on film each town that is taken.

4. Human interest material, and “home town news” coverage is still required of us, and is important. But each picture should be interesting in itself and, if at all possible, should serve more than one purpose; that is, should illustrate some military function as well as portray an individual or a group. Pvt. Jones operating a machine gun or a bulldozer is far better than Pvt. Jones just staring into space.

Good human interest material is always at a premium, eagerly considered by papers and newsreels, more than often in preference to just ordinary forward area material.

5. The coverage of entertainments, USO shows, sporting or social events, sentimental group pictures, and purely routine activities of troops will be avoided. Requests for such coverage will be referred to APS or Corps representatives. This likewise applies to coverage of civilians except under combat conditions. Dramatic coverage of refugees, the suffering and devastation caused by war, should be evaluated from the standpoint stressed in paragraph 2.

6. Motion picture coverage of ordinary decorations and awards ceremonies will be restricted to “key shots” – but should be evaluated from the point of view of the importance of the award that is given. Naturally, full coverage will be given a soldier receiving the Medal of Honor. Common sense and circumstances should govern your coverage of such material. Close still coverage will be given these ceremonies, mainly for “home town news” purposes.

7. Coverage of bridge building, road building or repair, Quartermaster activities, Ordnance functions, will be considered from the standpoint of whether such material, in each case, presents anything new, unusual, or of value to the War Department from a technical or tactical point of view. Purely routine coverage of such activities should be avoided unless such coverage is illustrating combat conditions.

/s/ LINDEN G. RIGBY
Major, Signal Corps
Photo Officer

© *The Last Farewell - A journey of the heart*
By *Edmund Burke O'Connell and co-authors Julie Whitman
Jones and Thomas J. Sullivan, Jr.*
email the authors: the_last_farewell@mail.com