



## Other Army Pictorial Service (APS) Field Units in Mid 1943

**161st – Signal Photo Company**  
**162nd – Signal Photo Company**  
**163rd – Signal Photo Company**  
**164th – Signal Photo Company**  
**165th – Signal Photo Company**  
**196<sup>th</sup>-- Signal Photo Company**

By mid-1943, six photographic companies had been activated, with three more scheduled for activation before the end of the calendar year. The 161<sup>st</sup> Signal Photographic Company was on duty in the Southwest Pacific theater, and also had units in Iceland, Ireland, China and Hawaii.

In North Africa, there were 10 units, five each from the 162<sup>nd</sup> and the 163<sup>rd</sup> Signal Photographic Companies. Large detachments of the 162<sup>nd</sup> were on duty at various points in England.

In addition, the 162<sup>nd</sup> had units serving in Hawaii, Ireland, Newfoundland, Greenland, Panama, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad. One unit of the 164<sup>th</sup> was in Alaska, but the rest of the company, along with the 165<sup>th</sup> and most of the 164<sup>th</sup> was training in the United States. The 196<sup>th</sup> Signal Photographic Company, composed of four units derived from the 161<sup>st</sup>, was on duty at the Desert Training Center with the Second Army.

The number of photographic companies in being had increased threefold during the first 18 months of war, but there were still not enough to fill the need for them. There were not enough photographic technicians and therefore not enough photographic companies.

As the number of campaigns increased, the need not only for combat coverage of base activities would multiply.

Plans were soon in progress to organize "commando" photographic units – units which would approximate Col. Darryl Zanuck's teams assigned to the North African Operations.

-- Source: *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services – The Signal Corps: The Test.* Author, Thompson, G.R. Washington, D.C. Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, 1957.

© *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](mailto:the_last_farewell@mail.com)

