

FILM PROJECT

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*William Donovan 7/2/42*  
*1. British*  
*2. Radio & speech*  
*3. History of the Navy*  
*4. British Admiralty*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

June 28, 1942

Mr. J. Robert Rubin, Vice-President,  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures Corporation,  
1540 Broadway,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Bob:

I am enclosing herewith the following:

- (1) Copy of letter from Admiral Godfrey, head of British Naval Intelligence, relative to their photographic library.
- (2) Copy of letter from Admiral Godfrey enclosing a radio speech by a member of the Naval Staff.

I thought you might want to read these. I am hoping that you are going to be able to go over there soon.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan

INTELLIGENCE DIVISION,  
 NAVAL STAFF,  
 ADMIRALTY, S.W. I.

WHITENALL 9000.  
 EXTENSION 742.

P.56

16th June, 1948.

*Dear Bill,*

This letter is one which I had intended to write before I met you, and I am giving it to you now for purposes of record. It was extremely kind of you to see Lt. Commander Foster and Lt. Harling in connection with my request for photographic material to supplement the Admiralty Photographic Library.

2. From what Harling told me, and what I have since heard from you, I am greatly impressed by the potentialities of the C.O.I. Photographic Library, particularly by the unit evolved by Messrs. Warren and Haden of your staff. It is highly satisfactory that the Admiralty is now included in your distribution list.

3. Knowing the interest you take in the work of our Commandos, I am sure you will be pleased to know that Madagascar proved once again the value of a Photographic Library. Much of the swiftness of the operation was due to the care which had been taken to see that the photographic documentation of the strategic areas of the island was as adequate and up-to-the-minute as was humanly possible.

4. On my side I am, as you know, most ready and anxious to help you in similar ways. The Admiralty Photographic Library is open to any request from yourself. Please do not hesitate to let me know your requirements by signal if you think we can help.

*Yours v. sincerely,*  
*John Godfrey*

WHITENALL 8000.  
EXTENSION 748.

P.61

INTELLIGENCE DIVISION,  
NAVAL STAFF,  
ADMIRALTY, S.W.S.

19th June, 1942.

*Dear Bill:*

I have asked Mr. Slessor, the Officer in Charge of the Admiralty Photographic Library, to let me have details concerning the results of the recent broadcast appeal to the general public made by the Library. I thought the details might be of interest to your own organisation.

The appeal aroused considerable interest in the Press, and I attach three cuttings from "The Times", "The Daily Mirror" and the "Daily Sketch", which give some indication of the liveliness of the reactions throughout the country.

I attach a copy of the script of the appeal. About 60,000 letters have already been received. Analysis of these shows the following facts:-

- (1) Average photographs offered per letter - 70; ultimate total therefore up to 4,000,000 photographs.
- (2) Rejects, either on account of excessive existing coverage of these areas already in our files, or on account of the date of photographs offered - 25%.
- (3) Really valuable offers of priority areas - 2 1/2%.
- (4) Offers not priority but for ultimate acceptance - 37%.
- (5) Special letters not covered by above points requiring special answers - 3%.

If there are any other points in connection with this appeal on which you would like further details please let me know.

*Yours  
W. D. Donovan*

Colonel W. D. Donovan.

WIRELESS TALK

by

A MEMBER OF THE NAVAL STAFF.

I'm going to tell you about a very important and a very interesting aspect of the raids on enemy-occupied territory which have been made recently by our combined forces. There's quite a long list of them, and the list is continually growing.

You naturally know that these raids are planned in advance with the utmost care, but I wonder if you realise what a vital part is played in those plans by photographs.

Take Bruneval, for instance, where the big German radio-location centre was destroyed. I can tell you for the first time of one simple little incident which contributed greatly to that success. When every possible source of information about that area had been thoroughly combed for details, we still lacked an actual picture of those few hundred yards of France to complete our knowledge. It is in this connection that you will see how this talk affects you personally.

Quite by chance it transpired that one of the Staff Officers working on the plan had spent a holiday in the Bruneval neighbourhood just before the war. He hurried off to his house where he found his photograph album stored away in a trunk. He looked through it and there, sure enough, were photographs taken on his holiday showing in minute detail the exact spot involved. It was five of those photographs put together which forged the last link in the whole plan.

So private photographs helped to ensure the successful

operation at Bruneval, photographs taken in the carefree pre-war days without any thought of their later value. Now there are thousands of such photographs in the country.

I ask you to lend these photographs to the Admiralty, photographs taken when you went abroad on business or for holidays. Not only old photographs that you would otherwise give to the salvage, but more still your most treasured collections. We want to examine them and to copy those that interest us. We shall look after your property most carefully and return it to you intact when we have finished with it.

Not long ago the Ministry of Economic Warfare appealed to you for old guide books, foreign directories and so on, and your response was most generous. The Ministry passed much of this material to us and we were very glad to have it. But it is photographs we want now; photographs of every single country in the world except Great Britain itself.

Needless to say we already possess a vast collection of photographs, but even the Admiralty cannot have a photograph of every port and dock, every inch of coastline and more than that, every road, railway, bridge and factory in the world. Yet that is what we want. Inland areas as well as coastline. All three Services use our files for many and various purposes and you who are listening to me now may provide a vital missing part of the whole picture, and perhaps may be the means of saving lives.

There was a photograph sent to us the other day. It was one of a large collection of private holiday snapshots, taken solely for personal interest. This particular one showed a



beach scene, including a side view of a road leading down to the beach. Near the bottom of the road were two men standing beside a large car. You might not think that interesting to us, but it was - extremely - and this is why.

It was a foreign beach - never mind where - and we already had photographs of it. Although some of them showed the road in question, none was taken at an angle showing how wide that road was. It might have been a footpath for all we could tell. Well, this new photograph showed that the road had a good surface and was wide enough to hold a large car with two men beside it. In other words it was wide and strong enough for a landing party to drive their tanks up it from the beach - and it was the only way to do so. We had been searching for that information for weeks!

Well, I have told you the kind of information I want you to give us. Possibly some of you possess a photograph which, properly used, could be a more deadly weapon than ten torpedoes or twenty tanks. So now please look out all your snapshots and post-cards taken abroad. It doesn't matter where they were taken - from Boulogne to Fiji, from Amsterdam to Madagascar, inland or on the coast, we want them all. Your snap may seem just "Mother in Sunglasses on the Beach" to you, but experts may see in it a lot more than that. Just write and tell us what you have got. Don't send the photographs yet. Simply write and describe them to us. Send your letter to the following address; it's very simple; "Photographs", Admiralty, London. I'll repeat that:- "Photographs", Admiralty, London.

### Snapshots and Service

The Admiralty is frantically trying to get the people to look at the offer of the snapshots. But the people are not interested. They are not interested in the snapshots and picture postcards of foreign places have been offered in enormous numbers. There can be no excuse for doubling the strength of the simplest and most creditable motive—a patriotic duty to help the country towards victory. To this may be added the unusual feature of the request: the snappers of snapshots can take a new kind of pride in what they thought might be interesting, hoped might be ornamental, but never dreamed could be useful. They find it as flattering as it is surprising that their little holiday memories should thus pass to higher services. This was the hotel they stayed at, and this cross marks their bedroom. Here is the boat under full sail, and here are the young people bathing out of the dinghy. The camels were just passing under the gate, and they made an obvious subject, though it was a pity that the nearest one tried to bite its own hind leg just as the shutter clicked. Mere snapshots—notes of travel and reminders of happy holidays. But they will be something much finer than that if the Admiralty gets a tip from the position of the hotel, or from the position of the boat, or from the position of the camels, or from the position of the dinghy, or from the position of the gate, or from the position of the camels' legs and the gateway.

Having given full credit to the plain and proper motives, we are free to look behind them for subsidiary, but not necessarily reprehensible, desires. Methodical people put their snapshots in albums, and write underneath each the subject, place, and date. Unmethodical people show their snapshots into envelopes, and the envelopes into drawers. If ever they are asked to begin to fill an album, they begin to despair; and they cannot write subject, place, and date because they did not write them on the back of the print when it was new, and now they cannot remember where they took it and what it shows. Such as these can hope for no help from the Admiralty. It will be no use writing to the Admiralty to offer a pretty picture of an old tree or a waterfall, or even of an old church or a windmill. Hard fact, not aesthetic pleasure is what the Admiralty wants. But how fine a chance the occasion offers to the virtuous and methodical! To some, no doubt, it will be a chance of noble self-sacrifice. To others—and to many more than would be ready to admit it—it will be a chance of getting rid of a burden. Of the methodical album-makers, how many look into their old albums and recall their old pleasures? Not so many, we may hazard, as find them rather a bore, taking up a lot of room and giving nothing in exchange for it. And, if their own snapshots are a bore, far worse are the snapshots and the picture postcards sent by travelling friends, anxious (says envy) to show off and prove that they have been to Monte Carlo or Dubrovnik or Biskra. In many a house and well-meaning man—the answer of the Admiralty will be eagerly awaited. And if the Admiralty does not want the things, that will be an excellent reason for consigning them to whatever sort of salvage undertakes such rubbish.

## YOUR HOLIDAY SNAPS MAY HELP OUR COMMANDOS

If you have any snapshots or post-card photographs of places abroad let the Admiralty know about them. That appeal was made by a naval radio commentator yesterday.

"It doesn't matter where they were taken—from Boulogne to

Paris, from St. Malo to Monaco, inland or on the coast—we want them all," he said.

"Don't send the photographs yet. Simply write and describe them to 'Photographs, Admiralty, London, E.W.I.'"

### And Here's Why

How important they might be is shown by the story he told of the big part a forgotten album of photographs played in our task on the German radiolocation post at Bruneval in February. He said:

"The Admiralty needed six actual pictures of the few hundred yards of French coast where the radiolocation centre was."

"When it was found that none of the snapshots on the coast was suitable, it was the only way to get the pictures. The snapshots put together gave the final link in the whole puzzle."

THE DAILY MIRROR

Mirror

# YOUR HOLIDAY SNAPS MAY HELP OUR MEN TO ATTACK

**H**OW photographs taken during a holiday contributed largely to the success of the Bruneval raid was explained by a member of the Naval Staff in a post-script broadcast yesterday.

After explaining that despite every effort they still needed an actual picture of the few hundred parts of France where the German radiolocation centre was situated, the broadcaster said that quite by chance photographs were obtained because just before the war one of the staff officers working on the plan had spent a holiday in Bruneval neighbourhood.

In an album stored away in a trunk at his home, the officer found photographs he had taken showing the accurate details the exact spot involved.

It was five or six photographs put together which forged the last link.

The Admiralty wanted photographs of every inch of coastline every road, railway bridge and factory in the world.

"Men who are listening to me now," said the broadcaster, "may possess one photograph which, though unimportant to you may provide a vital missing part of the whole picture."

## More Deadly Than Tanks

He gave as an example a photograph sent which showed a beach scene, including a side view of a road leading to the beach. The British authorities had long wanted to know the width of that road.

This photograph showed that the road was wide and strong enough for a landing party to drive tanks up from the beach.

"Possibly some of you possess a photograph which, properly used, could be a more deadly weapon than ten torpedoes or twenty tanks," added the officer.

"Please look out all your snapshots and postcards taken abroad. It doesn't matter where they were taken—from Boulogne to Fiji, from St. Malo to Honolulu, inland or on the coast—we want them all."

"Don't send the photographs yet. Sharply write and describe them to: Photographs, Admiralty, London S.W.1."

*John P. ...*  
*...*  
*...*  
*...*

May 1, 1948

Mr. J. Robert Rubin,  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures Corporation,  
1545 Broadway,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Bob:

Here is something you ought to read, which  
I received from Admiral Godfrey. Please don't let it  
get out of your hands.

Sincerely,

April 30, 1942

Admiral John Godfrey

Thanks for your message. Of course will be glad to do everything we can to help with anything you wish done.

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN

1: The Admiralty Photographic Library was started in January 1940. Before that time many photographs had been collected for strategic purposes, but there was no centralised source to which the three Services could go in order to make a comprehensive selection from all available sources. With the swift development of preparations for Commando operations it became imperative that textual topographical reports, prepared for the local commanders of these operations, should be supplemented and documented in the fullest possible manner by photographs.

2: To this end, a subsection of the Inter-Service Topographical Section was formed to deal exclusively with the collection and selection of such photographs. As the Inter-Service Topographical Section was originally an offshoot of the Naval Intelligence Division the development of the library was administered mainly by the Admiralty. A Naval Commander was placed in charge of the library and two Naval Lieutenants and one Army officer were deputed to tap all available sources, and to assemble all available topographical photographs in the shortest possible time. (It should be mentioned that although the Air Ministry has a vast library of aerial reconnaissance photographs, it has been found that these photographs are mainly useful in the building up of a composite and accurate picture required for the planning of the broader strategy of the raids, and for the building of maps and ~~ground~~<sup>cont</sup> tables. These aerial photographs (bird's eye views), verticals and obliques, are on the whole not suitable for the use of Army and naval commanders who are actually going to carry out the operations.)

3: In the first weeks larger organisations were tackled: steamship companies, film companies, travel agencies, magazines, newspapers, libraries, technical societies and so on. The response was immediate and impressive. One steamship company, the Royal Mail, turned over to the library all its photographic archives, consisting of over 15,000 photographs, all of recent date and covering areas in the war zones, ranging from Spitzbergen to Southern Italy. (Film companies, strangely enough, although possessing seemingly important material were not very productive; technical difficulties in producing "Stills" from films are still considerable and the "stills" produced are usually "grainy" and hazy in outline.)

4: .....

4: In all cases it was clearly stated that photographs were required for confidential purposes and that no payment would be made. It was also stated that efforts would be made to copy and return all borrowed photographs within three weeks. During the first few months this utopian ideal was not reached, owing to the tremendous strain which was put upon available technical resources. At present, however, this three-week programme is more closely adhered to, and complaints are extremely rare.

5: Within two months the officers engaged in hunting out these photographs realised that photographs obtained from individuals were, generally speaking, of more use for the purposes of the Commandos than those obtained from commercial organisations. This was particularly true of photographs of entrances to harbours, jetties, beaches, etc. Geologists, writers, travellers and yachtsmen began to prove extremely useful sources for the supply of photographs and also very useful contacts for the purposes of augmenting existing topographical data.

6: By this time (circa May 1940), the library was beginning to be known among the three Services and was being increasingly used. The Ministry of Economic Warfare and the Ministry of Information also began to use the swiftly growing resources of the library for photographic documentation of the confidential reports, which ranged from reports concerning power plants in the Baltic area to photographs of ports and of the terrain in Italian Somaliland. The library is now used by officials of the Ministry of Economic Warfare and of the propaganda bureaux as well as by officers of the three fighting Services.

7: D.N.I. decided that in view of these wide inter-Service and inter-Ministry demands, it would perhaps be an opportune moment to place a civilian in charge of the library, and this was done.

8: As the library was at this time beginning to work more smoothly, and the Topographical Section had acquired its own photographic plant, it was thought that other sources might advantageously be tapped. This plan was experimentally started with a letter to "The Times" (see attached 'A') and the results were extraordinarily satisfactory. Ships' Captains, Embassies and Consulates throughout the world were also requested to make known the requirements of the library. (A typical request, made by D.N.I. Ottawa, is shown in attached 'B').

9: .....



have been mainly technical: great numbers of photographs have come in and continue to come in. (The library contains at the moment upwards of 100,000 prints and adds approximately 1000 - 1500 a week to its files. Most of these photographs are of the main war zones, but the library is not limited in scope). Most of these production difficulties have, however, been overcome. The Admiralty photographic unit copies photographs for the library and the photographic unit of the Topographical Section makes prints of those areas under consideration by the Joint Planners.

10: The library is housed in a new building in Oxford. A regular courier service to London is maintained. Prints are stored in the library itself under a very simple filing plan. Negatives are stored underground. When demands are made for, say, twenty prints of each of 100 photographs relating to a certain area, selected from the files for the Joint Planners, it is now a comparatively easy job to have these copied within 24 or 48 hours.

11: The staff has also been increased considerably. The clerical staff was started with about five women assistants to the Officer-in-Charge. This staff has now grown to an establishment of about thirty-five women who are employed in selecting photographs from private and commercial collections, books, records of travel and albums, preparing those photographs selected for copying, captioning, checking, filing and distributing. This staff is controlled by the civilian Officer-in-Charge, with a secretary and a personal assistant. This staff consists of civil servants, all temporary. At the London end the staff consists of two naval officers and one army officer. These officers make all preliminary contacts with larger organisations and are now kept busy for a great part of their time hunting out photographs of areas for which sudden requests have been made by the Joint Planners. In these cases their instructions are received direct from the Deputy Director Naval Intelligence or one of the officers in Combined Operations HQ, and elaborate security precautions are taken in order that no hint of the area actually under consideration is given to owners of photographs.

12: These officers are assisted by three women also working in London, who inspect collections of photographs which are judged, from preliminary letters, to be likely to contain useful material.

13: .....

It has assembled and prepared all photographs used in the combined operations in Spitzbergen, the Lofoten Islands, Brunøya, St. Nazaire, Boulogne. In all these operations the handbooks (which contain topographical data, maps, plans and charts, but preponderantly photographs) have been of the most practical use to the local commanders. Comments on returning from these raids are unanimous in the opinion that the photographs play a major part in the success of the whole operation, and that Commanders cannot have too many of these shots. This fact is emphasized by the increasing attention paid to the whole question of topographical photographs by the Joint Planners. The commander in charge of the parachute troops who recently landed and destroyed the electrical equipment at Brunøya has officially reported that he considers photographic data to be of the utmost importance, and the officers and sergeants taking part in these raids are now taking a personal interest in the assembling of these photographs for their own raids and insist on their being studied and memorized right up to the moment of departure.

*W. Foster*  
*W. C. C. C.*  
*Rush*

oil installations, canals and other interesting subjects. The dates of these photographs are of course the most important and obviously pictures taken at dates since when their appearance may have changed in appearance do not apply. It is necessary to have a full description of the subjects depicted should be attached.

My I suggest that it would be a valuable contribution to the war effort if any of your readers would be good enough to lend photographs to the Admiralty Photographic Library in order that they may be copied for use in confidential publications. This process does not involve parting with photographs for more than six weeks, during which time they are treated with the utmost care. Any owner who is prepared to render this service should write to the Officer-in-Charge, Admiralty Photographic Library, Admiralty, S.W.1. describing his collection and stating his willingness to lend it.

W.R. SLESSOR,  
 Officer-in-Charge,  
 Photographic Library,  
 Admiralty, S.W.1.

B

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

NAVAL SERVICE

Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir(or Madam):

The Department of National Defence for Naval Services wishes to augment its collection of topographical photographs of all parts of the world and invites the general public, in particular your members, to help the "WAR EFFORT" by lending its relevant photographs.

This is a real chance for the civilian and man in uniform to help the "Campaign to Victory", because it is through the public at large and only through them that the Department can get the information it wants.

Naturally many photographs of popular resorts are bound to be duplicated. However, no two are ever exactly the same and in fact it is this duplication and overlapping which often is a great help.

The individual reading the enclosed memorandum may feel that "these snapshots of our trip that are in the attic" are of no value whereas in actual fact they may fill a gap in the library.

Will you please help in this campaign by forwarding a copy of this letter and a copy of the enclosed memorandum to each of your many local clubs and organizations and at the same time ask them to bring the matter to the attention of each individual member, preferably by giving them copies also. If you do this, you will be doing very useful work, the usefulness of which increases with the circulation of this information.

Anticipating great results,

Yours sincerely,

SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION~~  
**Photographic Library.**

1. The Department wishes to borrow, from the public, photographs, postcards, etc., to augment its collection. Since it is in the interest of the "WAR EFFORT", the Department feels sure that the public will be more than willing to help.
2. A collection is being made of photographs and postcards, etc. of topographical interest, covering all parts of the world (including Canada and United States, more particularly covering those parts already affected or likely to be affected by the war. Copies of the photographs will be forwarded to the Admiralty, England, and to Washington to be added to their libraries.
3. The following is a list of typical useful subjects but by no means exhausts the field:
 

Any Aerial Photographs, Railways, Bridges, Roads, Factories, Airports, Harbours, Beaches, Countryside, Public Utilities, Oil Refineries, etc. etc.
4. Where possible, the exact location of the photographs should be stated. For instance "a road in Central France" would be of little help but "road leading south from Avignon, 2 miles out of town, view looking south-west" would be of great value. Date of photograph also required where possible.
5. The background of, for instance, a group of people may be of interest and may possibly show some detail without which other photographs of same area would be of no use. Each individual's photographs are useful not only in themselves but because they tie in with those already in the library.
6. The photographs are protected by Crown Copyright and will not be published except with the consent of the owner.
7. Photographs, when received, will be copied and the originals returned to the owners as soon as possible. Every care will be taken of the photographs sent in, but the Government cannot accept responsibility for loss, non-receipt or damages.
8. Please address all photographs to: -
 

Secretary, Naval Board,  
 (for Photographic Library),  
 Department of National Defence for Naval Services,  
 O T T A W A
9. No postage is required but please enclose return address.
10. And thank you very much.

A collection is being made of photographs of topographical interest covering all parts of the world, more particularly those affected, or likely to be affected, by the war. The photographs are not only of ports, harbours, jetties, piers, etc., but of inland areas as well, since the library is being increasingly used by borrowers from all Defence Departments.

As a further indication of the nature of the photographs it is worth mentioning that a cross-reference index is being created under six categories, namely railways, roads, bridges, electrical (Power stations, dams, etc.) oil (refineries, plants, dumps, etc.) and industries (all sorts).

#### SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

Our sources of supply include shipping companies, travel agencies, commercial photographic agencies, newspapers, photographic and geographical publications, stills from movie news-reels and travel films and private collectors. Apart from the private collectors, most of our suppliers are in London and their collections have suffered severely from enemy action.

#### CAPTIONING AND LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS.

We attach importance to the exact location of photographs. A picture entitled, for instance, 'A bridge on the Trans-Iranian Railway' or 'A road in the Haute Savoie' is of little value to us. Pictures showing the nature of terrain have to be located as closely as possible. The actual captioning of our photographs is done by a method designed to conform with our filing system, the operative word, which is a place name, being underlined, the country in which that place exists being also shown and any further elaboration being shown as a sub-title. As an example, a photograph of the oil tanks at Svolveer would be captioned as follows :-

SVOLVAER                      LOFOTEN IS.                      NORWAY.

The new harbour, showing oil storage tanks.

Or again, a view of a section of road, say in Majorca, would be described thus :-

PALMA                      MAJORCA

A stretch of the Palma-Paquera Road, 3 miles from Palma.

#### DATES.

Another important point is that, whenever possible, dates of photographs should be given. Actual topographical features do not change, but landmarks and constructional works do.

It will be seen that the scope of our requirements is extremely wide, the thickest coverage being, naturally, needed in areas most liable to become zones of operations. In areas such as these even a photograph of a bathing beauty may be of value, as it may happen to show a particular coastal conformation, gradient of the beach, breakwater, jetty, etc., not otherwise covered by our collection.

#### POSSIBLE SUPPLIES FROM THE U.S.

It is considered certain that there exists in the United States a number of collections of inestimable value in this respect. The American public has always had a far greater interest in world travel than the British. These unable to satisfy this interest in actual practice do so by the study of books and magazines of travel. Among the leading commercial agencies in the States are Associated Press, B.U.P., International News Service, i.e. the Hearst group's agency, the National Geographical Magazine and many others. The American sources of supply should be of exactly the same nature as those from which our Library draws in England. Selection from these Libraries usually presents little difficulty, since most of them have a whole section devoted to topography, but cross-indexes on lines such as our own, frequently contain valuable material.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

July 2, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Colonel Harris  
From: William J. Donovan

Thank you for your memorandum of the 30th about obtaining pictures from the British Admiralty. I am much interested in this and would like to see the plan and the estimates of costs.

F. J. D.

14

in file  
in record  
This

will involve sending a competent technician to England with necessary equipment if same is not available for use there and arrangement to ship completed micro-film back to New York.

It would be desirable to maintain such an activity in England as a part of O.S.S., London branch.

A detailed plan with estimates will be submitted if you desire.

*W. J. Donovan*  
W. J. Donovan  
Col. III

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

June 30, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel Donovan

Subject: Project for acquiring British Admiralty  
Pictures for the Library, Pictorial Records  
Division.

The British Admiralty Library of Pictures in  
Oxford contains some 75000 separate photographs and  
is acquiring more regularly.

It is suggested that the Office of Strategic  
Services obtain permission to make a micro-film record  
of those prints which will be of value to us. This  
will involve sending a competent technician to England  
with necessary equipment if same is not available for  
use there and arrangement to ship completed micro-film  
back to New York.

It would be desirable to maintain such an  
activity in England as a part of O.S.S., London branch.

A detailed plan with estimates will be submitted  
if you desire.

LEN:bb

L. E. Norris,  
Col., Inf.

**EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY**  
**ROCHESTER, N.Y.**

May 13, 1950

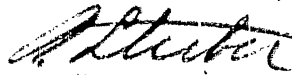
Mr. William J. Donovan  
Coordinator of Information  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Donovan:

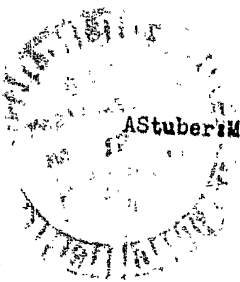
I received your letter of May 11, and we shall be very glad to cooperate with you as requested.

Our Mr. W. E. Potter is in contact with Colonel Norris, and I am quite sure that the arrangement suggested will be carried out to your satisfaction.

Yours very truly,



Vice President  
EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY





COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 11, 1942

Mr. Adolf Stuber, Jr.  
Eastman Kodak Co.  
Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Stuber:

Pursuant to telephone conversation between you and Mr. Roy W. Winter, of Amateur Cinema League, Inc., on May 4, I request that you mail to the Secretaries of your organized Camera clubs questionnaires which will be furnished by my office.

It is understood from your Mr. J. S. Potter that there will be about 5,000 clubs to be canvassed. We propose to print the questionnaire, to stuff the envelopes with return, self-addressed envelope and three copies of the questionnaire and then to forward the lot to you to process through your addressograph and mail. These will go out in franked envelopes.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter, I am

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN  
Coordinator of Information

LEN:ar

May 6, 1942

Mr. A. Stuber, Vice President  
Eastman Kodak Company  
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr. Stuber:

In order to facilitate the gathering of information for the use of our armed forces, it would be most helpful if you could arrange for a questionnaire to be prepared by this office, concerning which you and Colonel L. S. Morris, U.S.A., have spoken, to be sent, at our expense, with franked envelopes, to the camera clubs with which your company is in contact. The details of this service from your company to the United States government would be worked out with you by Colonel Morris.

I can assure you that this cooperation from the Eastman Kodak Company will be of real value to the war effort of the country, and I hope that you will find it possible to meet this request.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan

Mr. A. Stuber, Vice President  
Eastman Kodak Company  
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr. Stuber:

In order to facilitate the gathering of information for the use of our armed forces, it would be most helpful if you could arrange for a questionnaire to be prepared by this office, concerning which you and Colonel L.F. Norris, U.S.A., have spoken, to be sent, at our expense, with franked envelopes, to the camera clubs with which your company is in contact. The details of this service from your company to the United States government would be worked out with you by Colonel Norris.

I can assure you that this cooperation from the Eastman Kodak Company will be of real value to the war effort of the country, and I hope that you will find it possible to meet this request.

Sincerely,

Commis  
 Col. Winton  
 Gary Lee 1984  
 One, Amphibious Division  
 16th US Marine Amphibious  
 Force  
 16401314  
 Lt. Brown  
 Amphibious Division  
 16th US Marine Amphibious  
 Force

Photographs  
in files

June 5, 1942.

The Honorable Harold L. Ickes,  
Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.,

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am returning to you herewith, as  
you requested, the film album of Mrs. J. Gordon  
Wilson of Old Bennington, Vermont.

We appreciate very much the interest  
shown by Mrs. Wilson, among others, in our  
effort to collect pictures of various parts  
of the world. We find that we have previously  
obtained pictures of the areas covered by Mrs.  
Wilson's album. Will you kindly convey our  
appreciation to Mrs. Wilson when you return  
her pictures to her.

Very truly yours,

L. E. Morris,  
Colonel, Inf.

Enclosure

LE:1133

Col Donovan

June 5, 1942.

The Honorable Cordell Hull,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received the pictures called  
to you by Mrs. Robertson types of Laurinburg,  
North Carolina. We thank you very much for  
forwarding them to us in an effort to assist  
us in our collection of pictures. However,  
the pictures are so old and of such nature  
that they are of little use to us, and I am  
this date returning them directly to the  
sender.

Very truly yours,

L. E. Norris,  
Colonel, Inf.

LEW:bh

June 5, 1942.

Mrs. Robertson Eppen,  
616 Presbyterian Avenue,  
Laurinburg, North Carolina.

My dear Mrs. Eppen:

Returned herewith are the three pictures which you sent to the Secretary of State. He has forwarded them to this office, which has the responsibility of the collection of pictures.

We appreciate very much your patriotic effort in forwarding these pictures to us but find that the pictures are too old to be of any use to us.

Thanking you very much, I remain,

Very truly yours,

L. E. Norris,  
Colonel, Inf.

Enclosure

LEH:bh

# URGENT WHERE HAVE YOU FILMED?

In order to facilitate the operation of our armed forces, this office is engaged in locating photographs and transparencies of areas outside the United States. It is desirable and necessary to broaden the base of this activity by building up an index of photographs and transparencies in the hands of persons who have traveled OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES and who have photographed in the course of their travel.

If you have photographed OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, you are requested to answer the questions below, as a patriotic duty. Questions that will naturally come to your mind are made clear in the form itself. Report all photographs and transparencies, whatever their size. Quality is unimportant; subject matter is paramount. It is particularly requested that you act promptly.

*William J. Donovan*

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN  
Coordinator of Information

(Cut here)

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Last name) (First name) 2. Profession \_\_\_\_\_

3. Home address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street & number) (City) (State)

4. Business address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street & number) (City) (State)

5. When you cannot be reached quickly, to whom can the United States Government apply to get prompt action? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Street & number) (City) (State)

6. Are you a citizen of the United States of America? \_\_\_\_\_  
If you are not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? \_\_\_\_\_

7. If they are not at your present residence or business address, where are your photographs (negatives and prints) and transparencies? \_\_\_\_\_

8. To whom should the United States government apply, to get this material, if it is not in your possession now? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

9. If requested, will you send the photographs to the United States government for examination, with its assurance that they will be returned to you intact, at its expense? \_\_\_\_\_

10. If requested, will you give the United States government permission to make, without cost to you, prints of your photographs that are possible military news, with the assurance that the duplicates will be used by the government only? \_\_\_\_\_

11. If you have shown any of these photographs to any government agencies, indicate which ones and when? \_\_\_\_\_



1. Name of individual: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Name of business: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. Country: \_\_\_\_\_

6. If you are not at your present residence or business address, where are your photographs (negative and prints) and transparencies? \_\_\_\_\_  
 7. To whom should the United States government apply, to get this material, if it is not in your possession now? \_\_\_\_\_

8. If requested, will you send the photographs to the United States government for examination, with the assurance that they will be returned to you intact, at its expense? \_\_\_\_\_  
 9. If requested, will you give the United States government permission to make a third copy of your prints of your photographs that our government may need, with the assurance that the duplicate will be used by the government only? \_\_\_\_\_  
 10. If you have shown any of these photographs to any government agencies, indicate which one and when: \_\_\_\_\_

Countries	Date of visit	STILL PHOTOGRAPHS		Have you prints from these negatives?	TRANSPARENCIES		
		Number you have	Size of negative		Number you have	Size	Color or black and white

Mail to: Visual Presentation Branch, COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION, 2nd and E Streets, N.W., Washington, D. C. (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

MANAGING DIRECTOR  
ANALYTICAL SYSTEMS LABORATORY

435 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

# URGENT

## WHERE HAVE YOU FILMED?

In order to facilitate the operation of our armed forces, this office is engaged in locating photographs and transparencies of areas outside the United States. It is desirable and necessary to broaden the base of this activity by building up an index of photographs and transparencies in the hands of persons who have traveled **OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES** and who have photographed in the course of their travel.

If you have photographed **OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**, you are requested to answer the questions listed below, as a patriotic duty. Questions that will naturally come to your mind are made clear in the form itself. Report all photographs and transparencies, whatever their size. Quality is unimportant, safety is paramount. It is particularly requested that you act promptly.

*William J. Donovan*

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN  
Coordinator of Information

(Cut here)

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last name) (First name)

2. Profession \_\_\_\_\_

3. Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street & number) (City) (State) Telephone

4. Business address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street & number) (City) (State) Telephone

5. When you cannot be reached quickly, to whom can the United States Government apply to get prompt action? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Street & number) (City) (State) Telephone

6. Are you a citizen of the United States of America? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you are not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? \_\_\_\_\_

7. If they are not at your present residence or business address, where are your photographs (negatives and prints) and transparencies? \_\_\_\_\_

8. To whom should the United States government apply, to get this material, if it is not in your possession now? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Street & number) (City) (State) Telephone

9. If requested, will you send the photographs to the United States government for examination, with its assurance that they will be returned to you intact, at its expense?

10. If requested, will you give the United States government permission to make, without cost to you, prints of your photographs for use as a necessary part of its program, but the originals will be used by the government only?

11. If you have shown any of these photographs to any government agencies, indicate which ones and when.

Countries Visited	Date of Visit	STILL PHOTOGRAPHS			TRANSPARENCIES		
		Number you have	Size of negatives	Have you prints from these negatives?	Number you have	Size	Color or black and white

(If space is insufficient, please prepare separate sheet.)

Mail to  
Visual Presentation Branch  
COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION  
25th and E Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

(Signature)

The outgoing letter was not written  
in this office

National Geographic Society  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

JOHN OLIVER LAJORCE  
VICE PRESIDENT

May 7, 1942.

Colonel William J. Donovan,  
Coordinator of Information,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Donovan:

Acknowledging your letter of April 29th requesting the cooperation of the National Geographic Society and its Magazine in granting permission to the Coordinator of Information for the reproduction in Sweden of photographs owned and internationally copyrighted by this Society for reasons clearly understood in the National Emergency.

While The Society has never before favorably considered similar requests for such blanket permission, which seriously affects its property rights, it is glad to grant such permission to the Coordinator of Information.

We understood from the interview with Mr. Polangin, Assistant Chief of Pictures and Publications, that the line "By Special Permission of National Geographic Society" will appear under each picture so used.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

*John O. Lajorce*

*Walter F. M. Polangin*  
5/7/42

March 7, 1948

*Film Project*

*file*

Mr. Robert Rubin  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures  
1840 Broadway  
New York City

Dear Mr. Rubin:

Colonel Donovan told me yesterday that you had advised him concerning a pending advertisement which was to appear in the Amateur Cinema League monthly. The advertisement to come from the Chief Engineer of the Army. The Colonel thought it appeared as if the advertisement indicated that the Chief Engineer was about to duplicate the kind of work being done by our Historical Records Section.

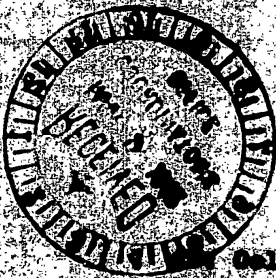
Inquiry today of the Chief Engineer's office indicates that the material he seeks to secure from the amateur photographers in the portrayal of such data as will help the camouflage activities of the Army. The Engineer's office is limiting its search merely to the art of camouflage as might be depicted in amateur photography.

Colonel Hahn of our office, who made the direct approach to the Engineers, states that in his opinion there was no duplication of program, and that the Engineers stated they would be happy to get from us any pictorial material which our research people might turn up in subjects in which they, the Engineers, were interested.

Sincerely,

*AR*

Atherton Richards.



Colonel Donovan ✓