Vahan Ouzoonian U. S. Army Signal Corps negatives

UC Riverside. California Museum of Photography
UC Riverside. California Museum of Photography
3824 Main Street
Riverside, California 92501
(951) 827-4787
http://www.cmp.ucr.edu/
2013
**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Vahan Ouzoonian U. S. Army Signal Corps negatives  
**Dates:** 1943-1945  
**Collection Number:** 1995.0007  
**Creator/Collector:** Ouzoonian, Vahan, 1913-2001United States. Army. Signal Corps.  
**Extent:** Approximately 1200 negatives  
**Repository:** UC Riverside. California Museum of Photography  
**Riverside, California 92501**  
**Abstract:** The images in this collection were taken in Central and Western Europe during World War II. They follow the U.S. Army’s invasion of the countryside in Belgium, France, and Germany, as well as military life in American-occupied London and Paris.  
**Language of Material:** English  
**Access**  
The collection is open for research use.  
**Publication Rights**  
Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder (if applicable)  
**Preferred Citation**  
Vahan Ouzoonian U. S. Army Signal Corps negatives. UC Riverside. California Museum of Photography  
**Acquisition Information**  
Vahan Ouzoonian donated the negatives to UCR/CMP in 1995.  
**Biography/Administrative History**  
The U.S. Army’s Signal Corps managed communications for the military’s ground and air forces throughout World War II. As part of this effort, hundreds of photographers were assigned to capture motion picture and still photographs from all aspects of the war. The film was used for training, historical documentation, and publication. Private Vahan Ouzoonian, of the 3908 Signal Corps Battalion, served in the Army from 1943-45. He operated and repaired motion picture projectors, cameras, and sound equipment in London throughout the war. When the conflict ended in 1946, Ouzoonian returned to his native California and opened a camera repair shop. He died in 2001.  
**Scope and Content of Collection**  
The collection contains approximately 1000 negatives created by Vahan Ouzoonian over the course of his three-year assignment in Europe. They document various landmarks and streets in London and Paris, as well as the lives of soldiers who were stationed there. The negatives also capture the soldiers’ journey home by steamer and arrival in New York City. In addition, the collection holds around 200 transparencies. Taken by Signal Corps photographers during the 1944 American advance on German-occupied territory, the main subjects are soldiers in action and casualties of the war. Significant events recorded include the D-Day invasion on the beaches Normandy and Germany’s official surrender in 1945.  
**Indexing Terms**  
World War, 1939-1945  
Film negatives