

Army Blood Supply Depot: photographs

Publication/Creation

1940s-1990s

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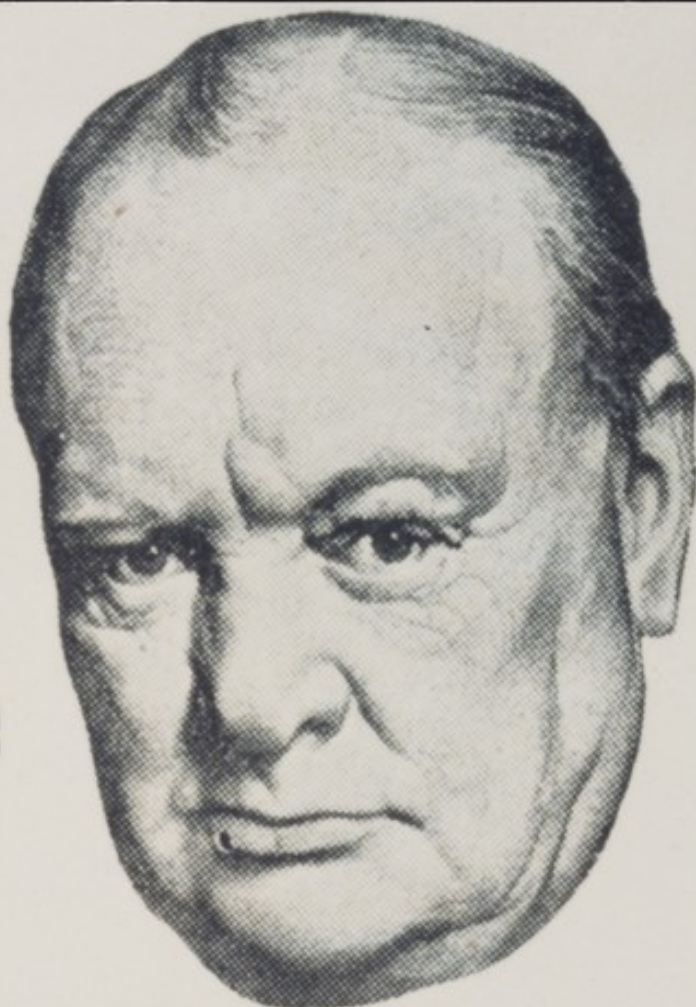
A/c 1

FUJICHROME PROFESSIONAL PAPER

Even the Commanding Officer's staff car was pressed into service for donor recruitment. Note the vampire bat on the passenger side door. Does anyone know where the George and Railway Hotel is?

THE PRIME MINISTER
HAS SAID: (Nov. 9, 1943)

“The Hazards of Great Battles lie before us”



Here is a warning all must heed. Adequate reserves of fresh blood, plasma and serum, *must* be available for giving transfusions to all 1944 battle casualties that need them. For this reason the Army Blood Transfusion Service calls for many thousands



*Will YOU
enrol as
a blood
donor ?*

more blood donors of all groups. Will you help by giving a little of your blood? It is simple, painless and harmless, *but the lives of our wounded depend upon it* and thousands more blood donors are wanted.

BRISTOL'S BLOOD TRANSFUSION CAMPAIGN

Feb. 12TH to 26TH

A.R.P. HEADQUARTERS, 55 BROADMEAD

ARMY BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

12

A/c 3

FUJICHROME PROFESSIONAL PAPER

An advertisement in the Western Daily Post on 1st February 1944. This was part of a campaign to enrol 50,000 new donors in Bristol. The campaign was launched by the Lord Mayor and Sheriff, who were the first and second donors respectively. Wing Commander Guy Gibson of Dam Busters fame also donated a pint. A special message was sent by General Sir Bernard Montgomery expressing his gratitude to the Bristol blood donors in which he said "The Blood Transfusion Service is a great battle-winning factor".



14

Alc4



A standard donor team consisting of 1 medical officer, 4 VADs, 2 FANY drivers and 1 RAMC orderly.



16

A/c's



Mr JG McCrudden , Head of the Donor Organisation Dept, examines a map of the South West of England (MoH Region 11) showing the 400 centres visited by the Army Blood Transfusion Service (ABTS) donor teams.



17

Alc6

A welcome cup of tea
under hardy conditions.

Alc6



A 'Bleed' in progress in a
church hall. Each nurse
manages one couch.
Note the "gramophone" staking
machine.

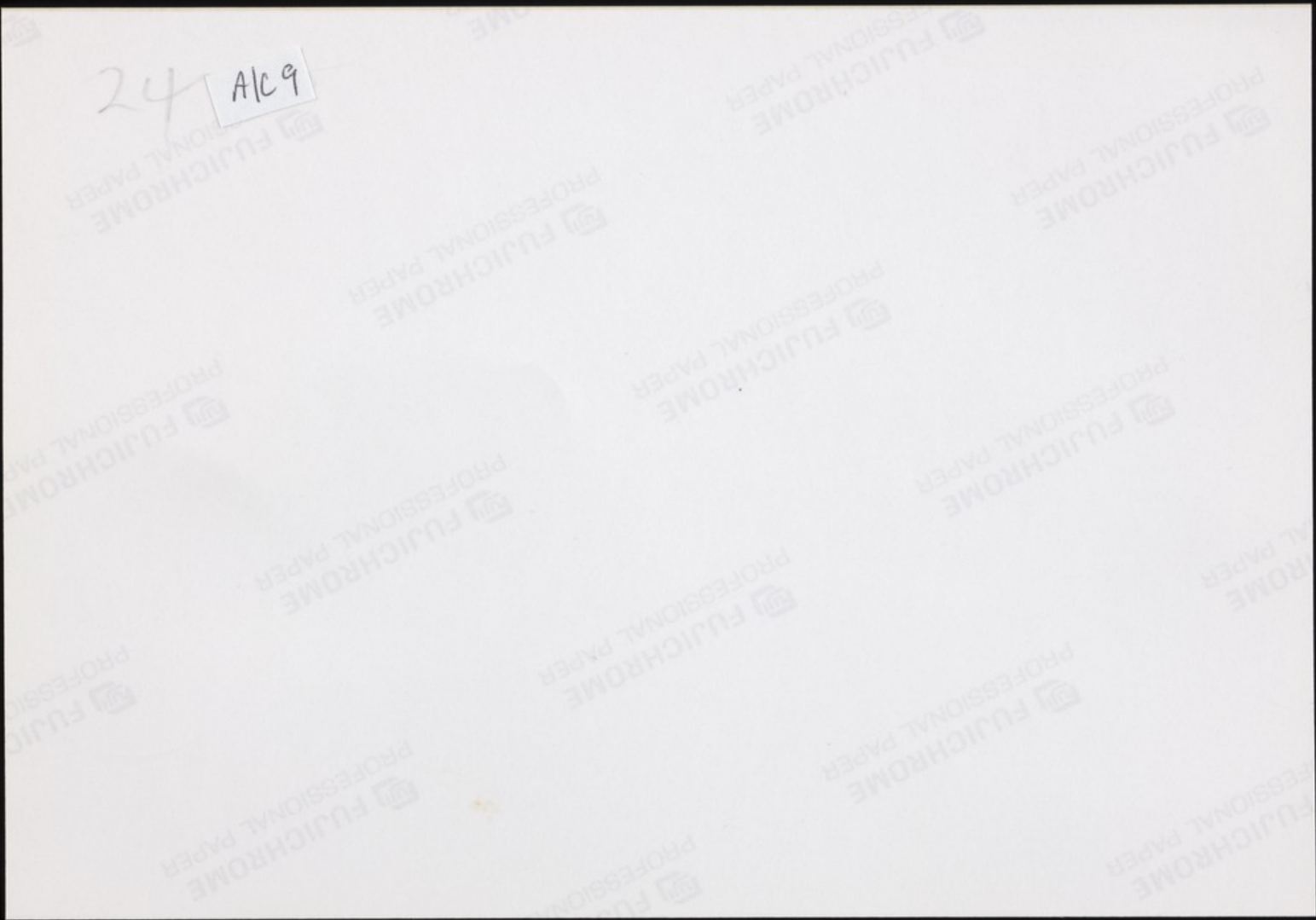
A/C7

A/C7

A "Bleed" in progress in a church hall. Each nurse manages one couch. Note the "Gramophone" shaking machine.



24 A/c 9



Harry Secombe raises a pint of Courage with soldiers from the Parachute Regiment, while Major Derek Robson (Furthest on the Right), 2i/c of the ABSD, enjoys the joke. Note the slogan on the base of the cockerel "Give a pint and take a pint".



CHROME

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Alc10

23

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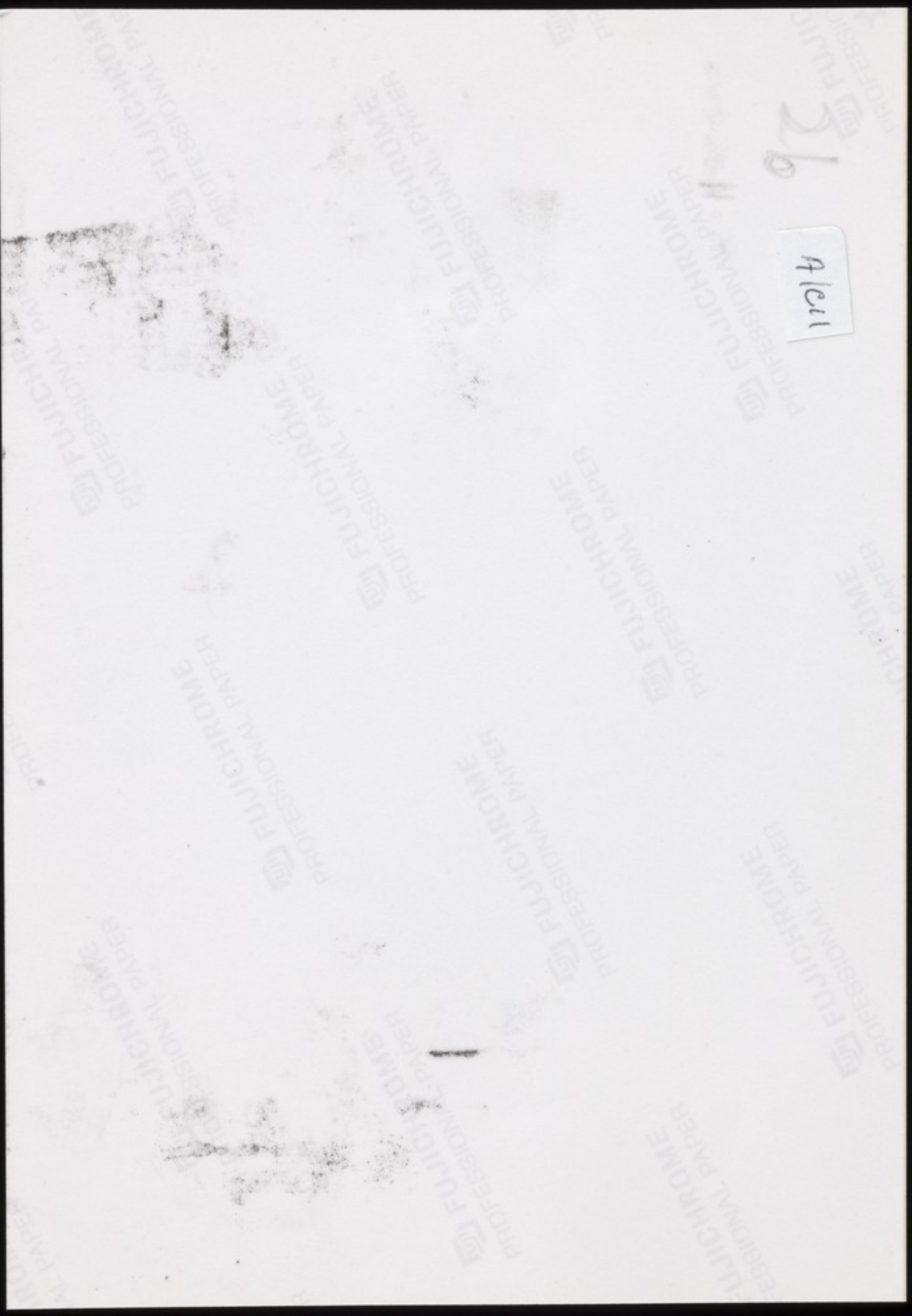
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Harry Secombe comforts a WRAC donor, whilst giving a pint himself at the Army Blood Supply Depot (ABSD) in Aldershot.

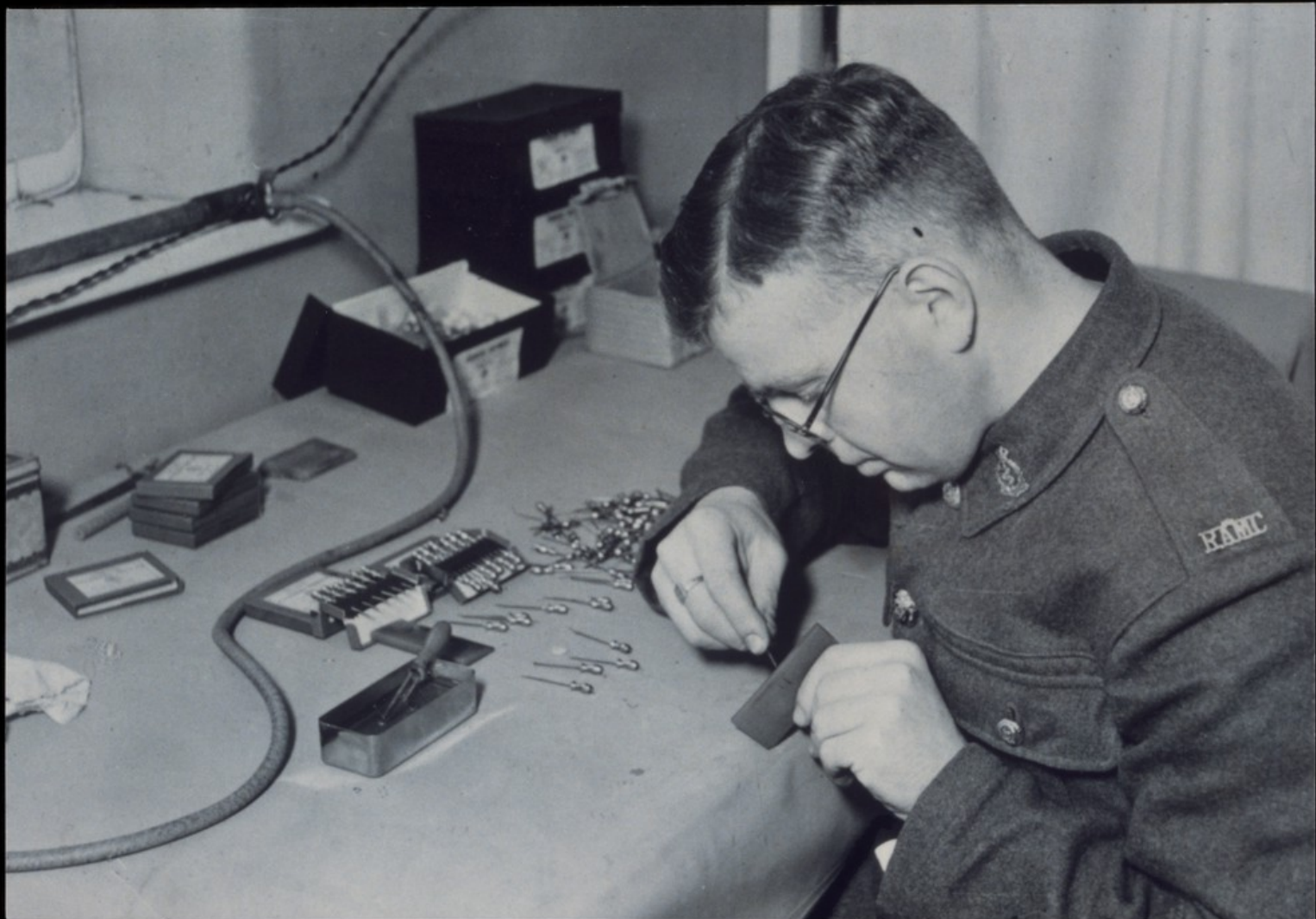


26

Alell



Drying high titre grouping serum in 2cc ampoules using the lyophile process.



29

A/c 12

All RANC technician
sharpen transducer
needles in the transducer
set assembly room

A/c 12

An RAMC technician sharpens transfusion needles in the transfusion set assembly room.



30

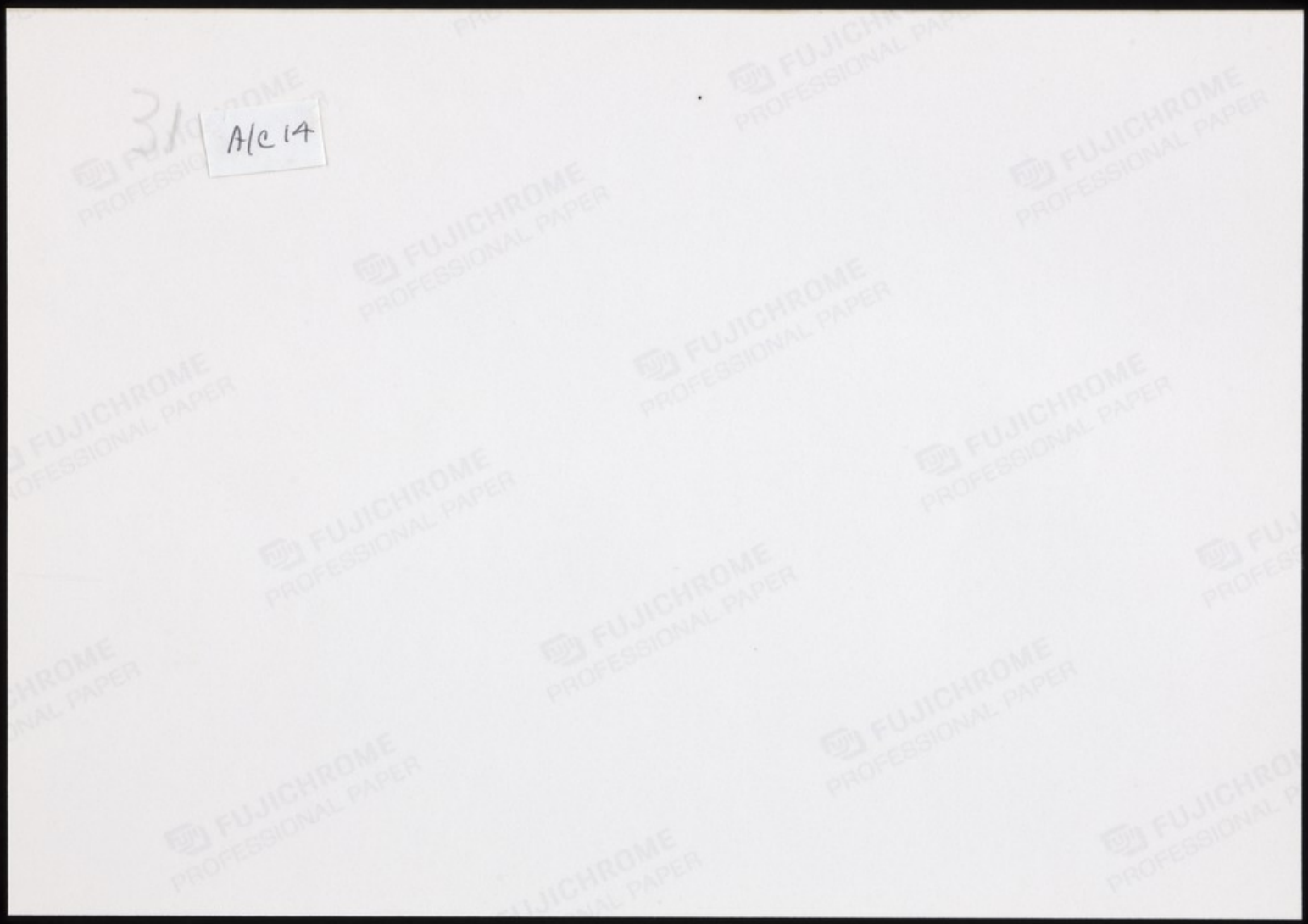
A/c 13

World War II

RAMC technical glass-blowers make the individual parts for transfusion sets.



31
A/c 14

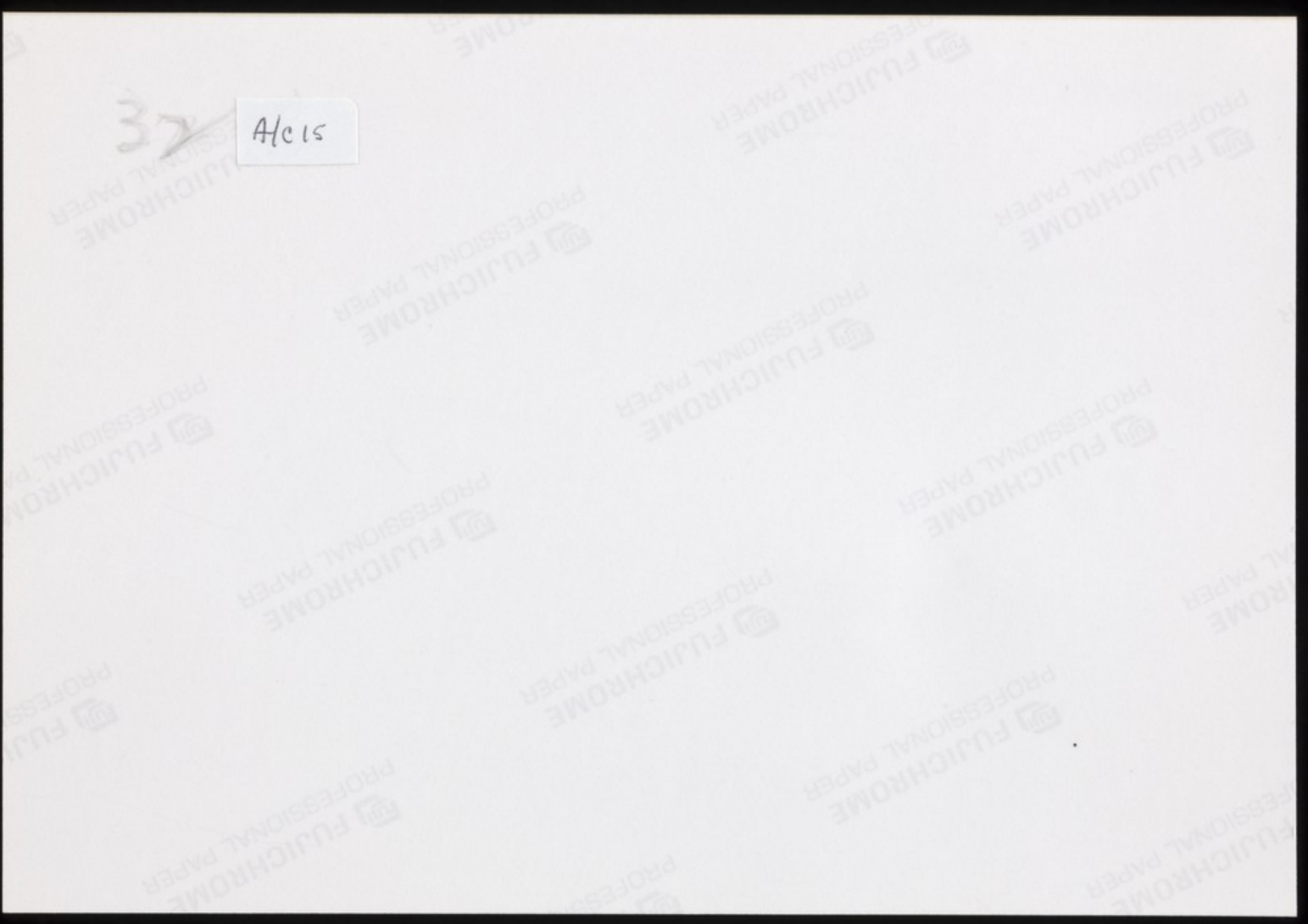


Nurses working in the blood grouping laboratory



32

A/c 15



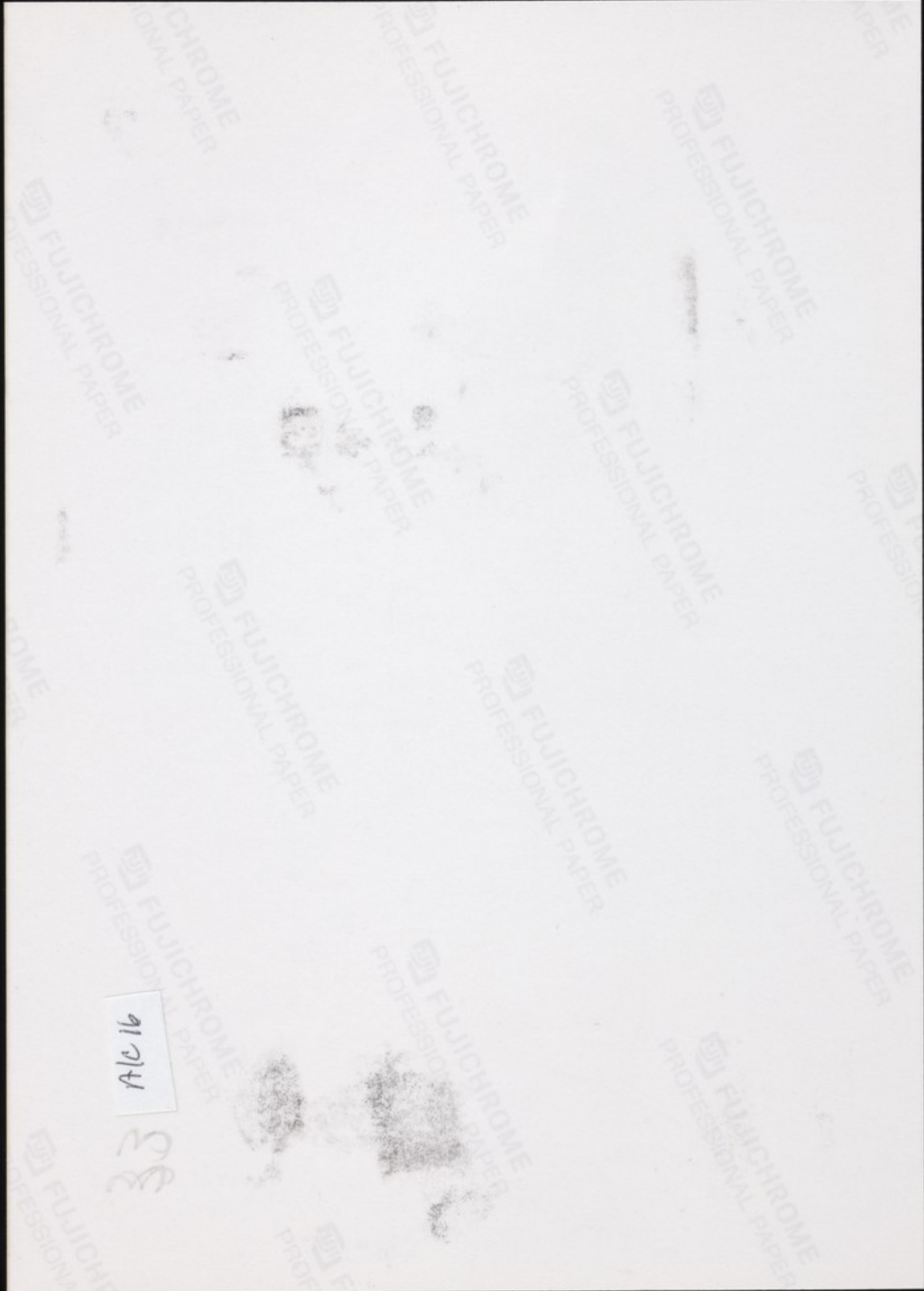
A nurse wraps assembled blood transfusion sets.



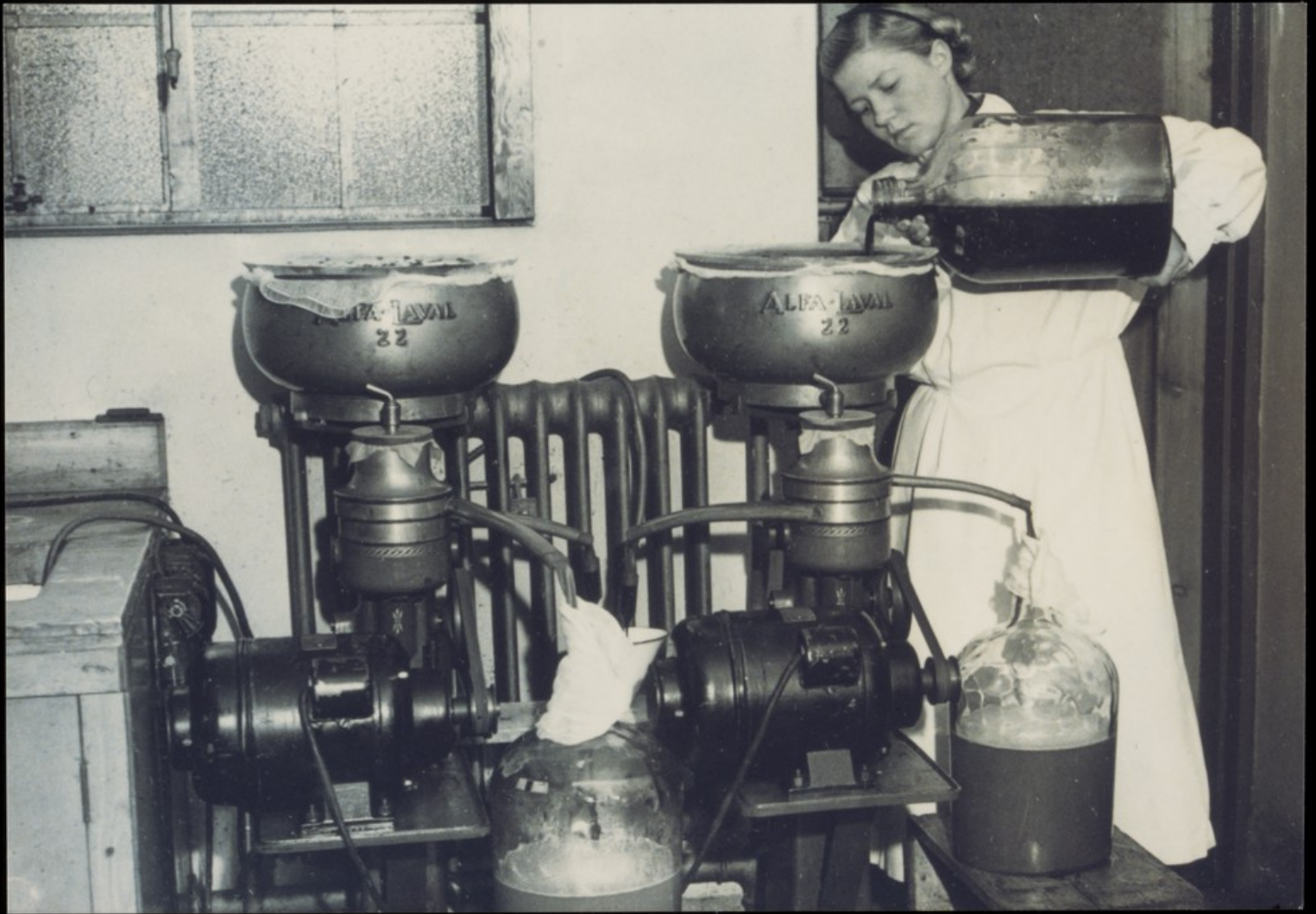
THE SILVER
THIMBLE
A gift from the Women
of India.

A/C 16

33

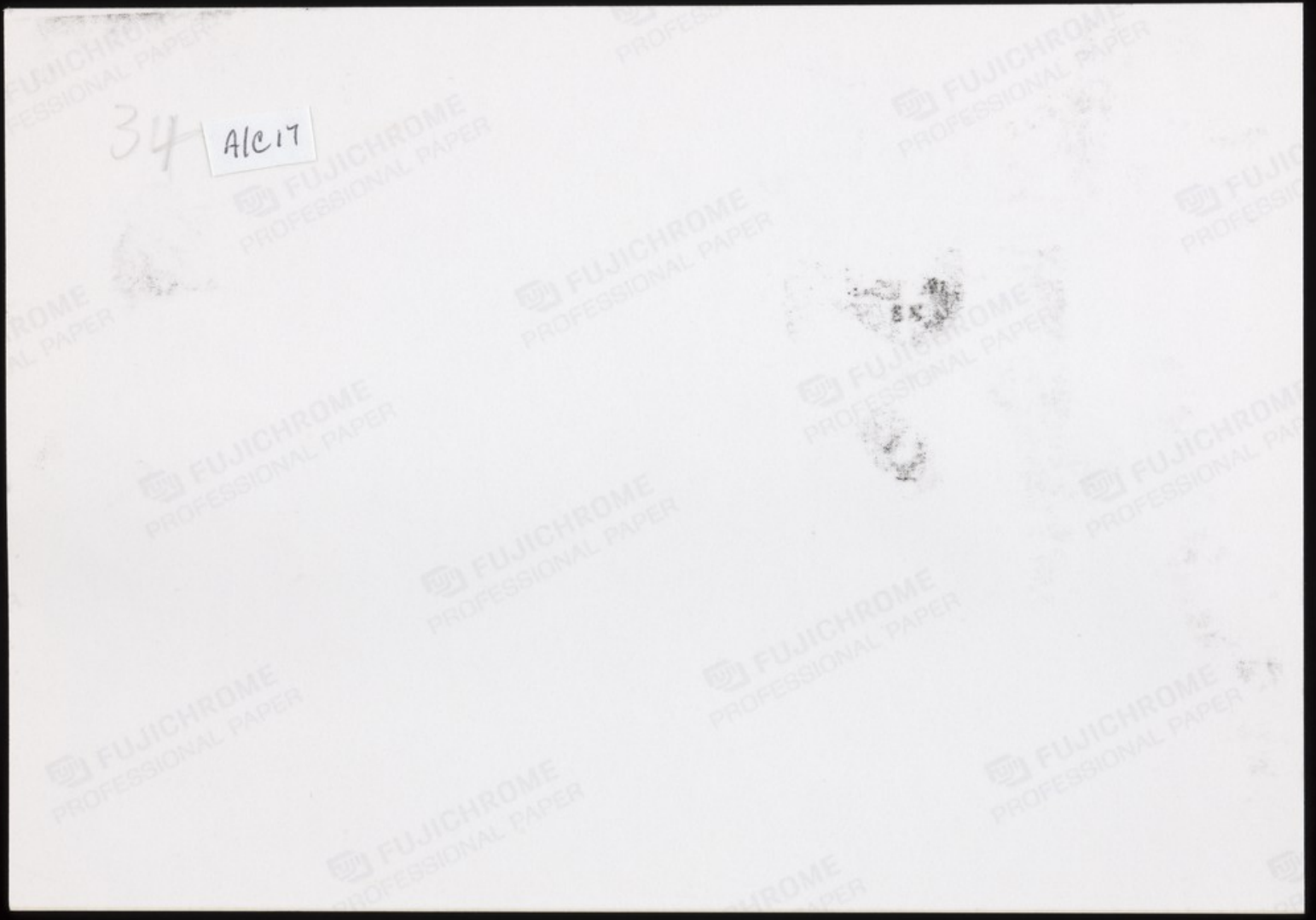


The control panel of s spin-drying plasma plant which was capable of producing over 1,400 bottles per week. This plant was purchased in 1941 with funds donated by the Silver Thimble Fund of the Women of India.

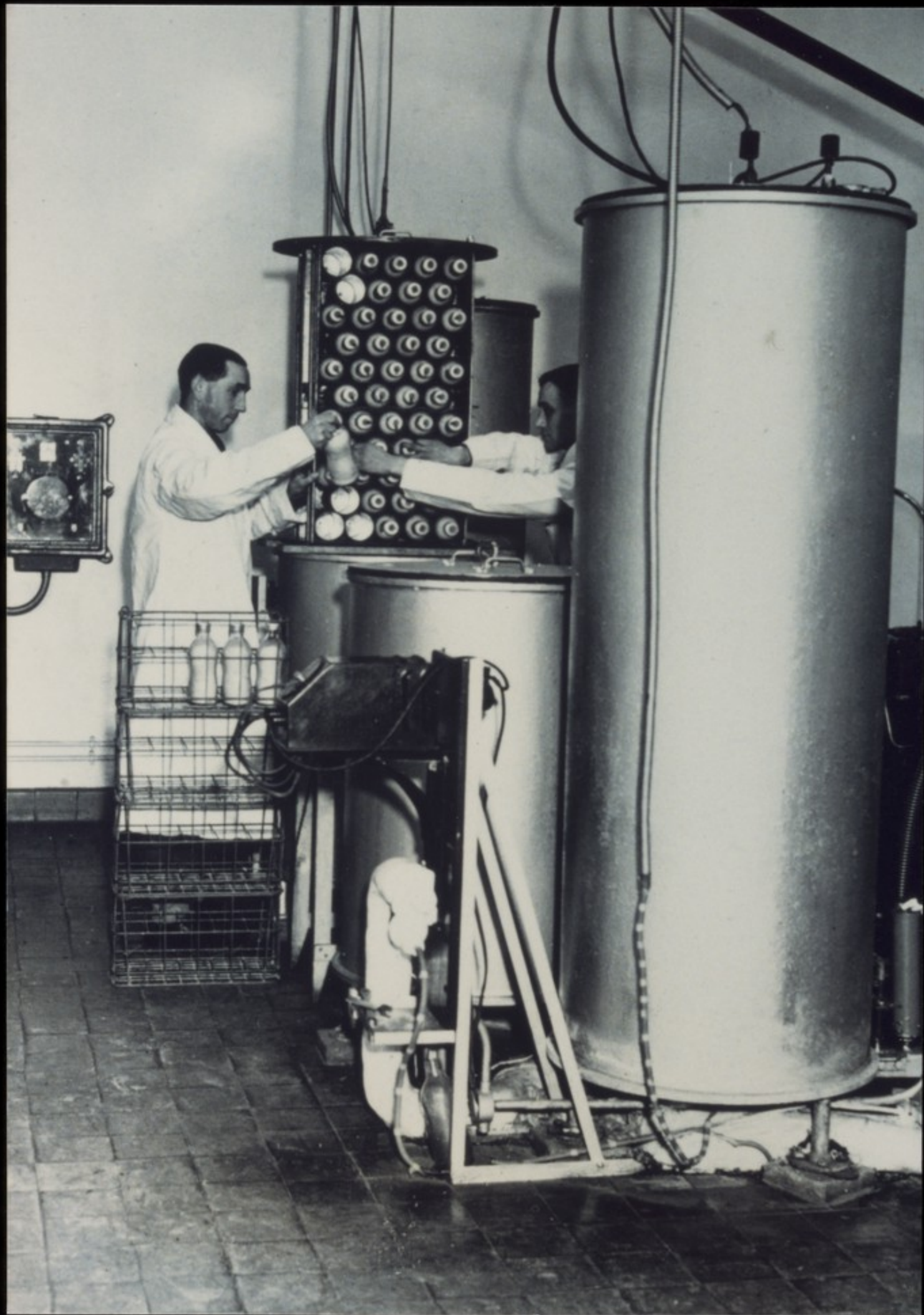


34

A1C17



An Alfa-Lavel centrifuge is used to separate the plasma from the donated blood. H&SE please note.



38

Alc 18

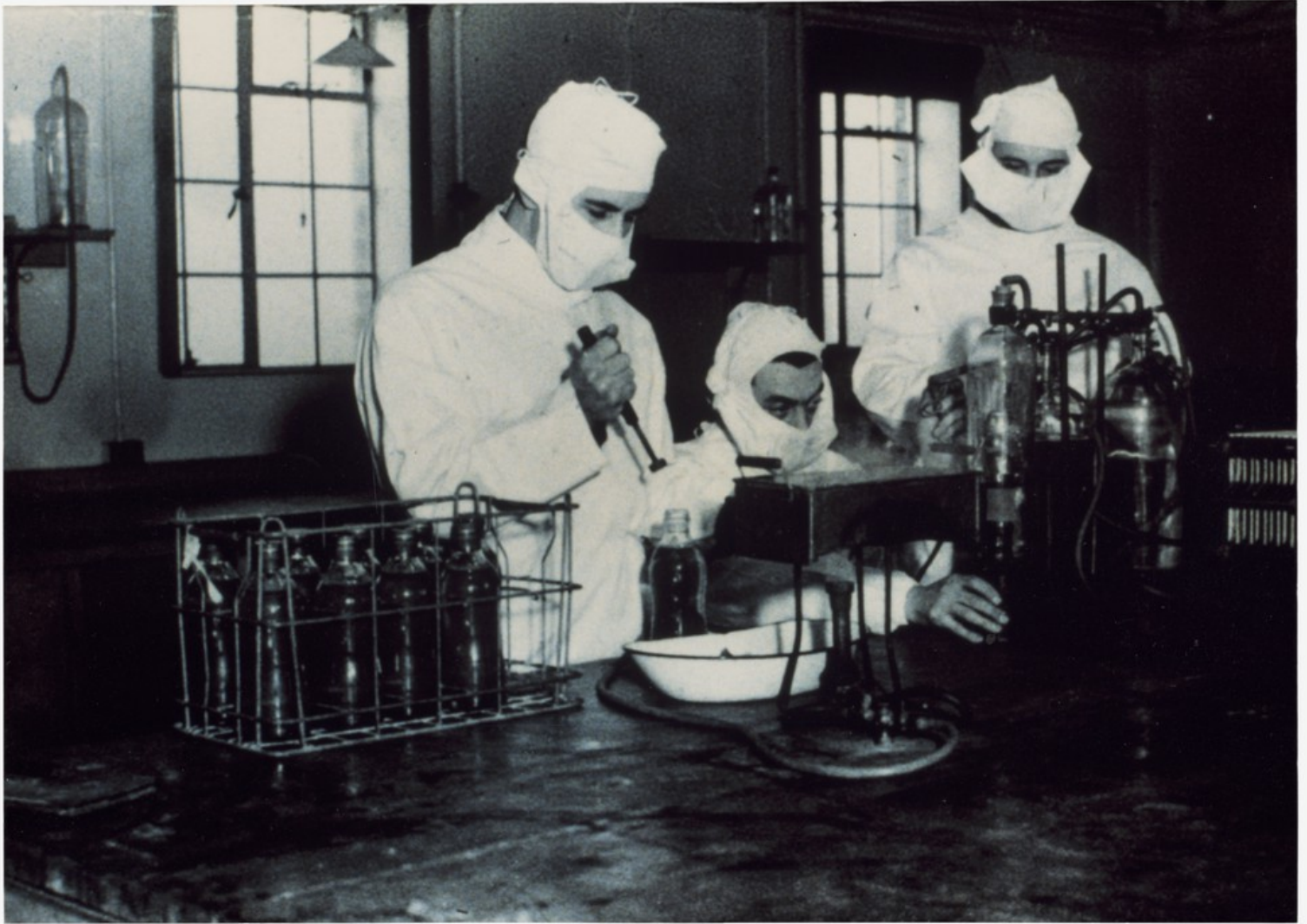


Unloading one of the large primary desiccators in the Plasma Drying Department. The two small cylinders are secondary desiccators in which the last traces of moisture were removed by vacuum and P_2O_5 .



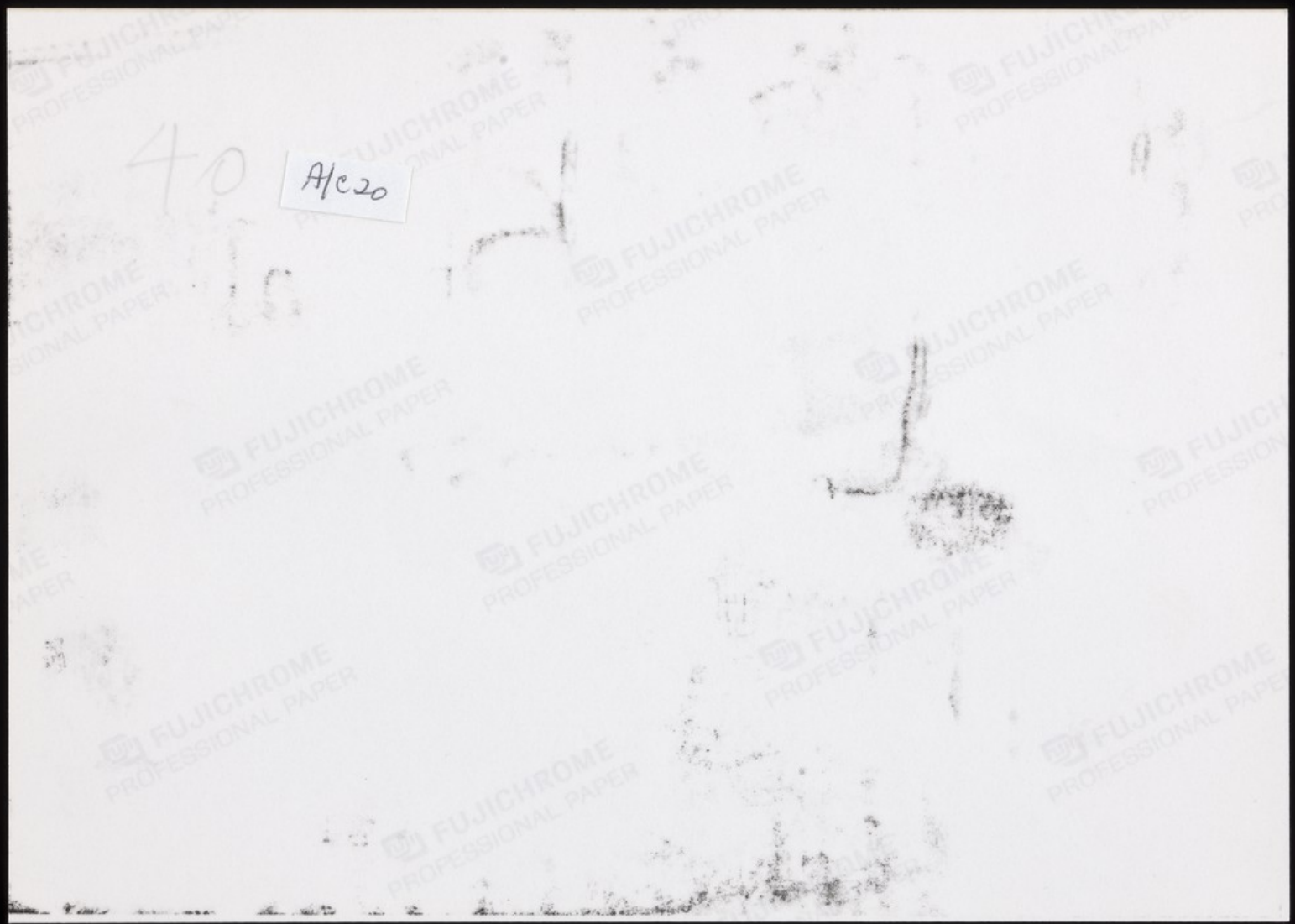
AK 19

Pooling plasma to absorb the agglutinins



40

A/c 20



A team filtering and bottling plasma using a 20 x 20, 8 pad, Seitz Pilot Filter.



RETURN TO
ARMY BLOOD
SUPPLY DEPOT
BRISTOL

RETURN TO
ARMY BLOOD
SUPPLY DEPOT
BRISTOL

45

A/C 21

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The "14 Bottle" wooden case used to transport plasma, its total weight being 60lbs. Note each bottle has an accompanying transfusion set. Later the number of sets was reduced to 4 per case, because casualties were each given more than one unit of plasma. Dried plasma were sent to tropical theatres, whilst liquid plasma was used in temperate climates.



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A/c 22

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ROME
AL PAPER

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A load of Field Pattern boxes being sent to the Army Medical Supply Depot at Ludgershall prior to D-Day.

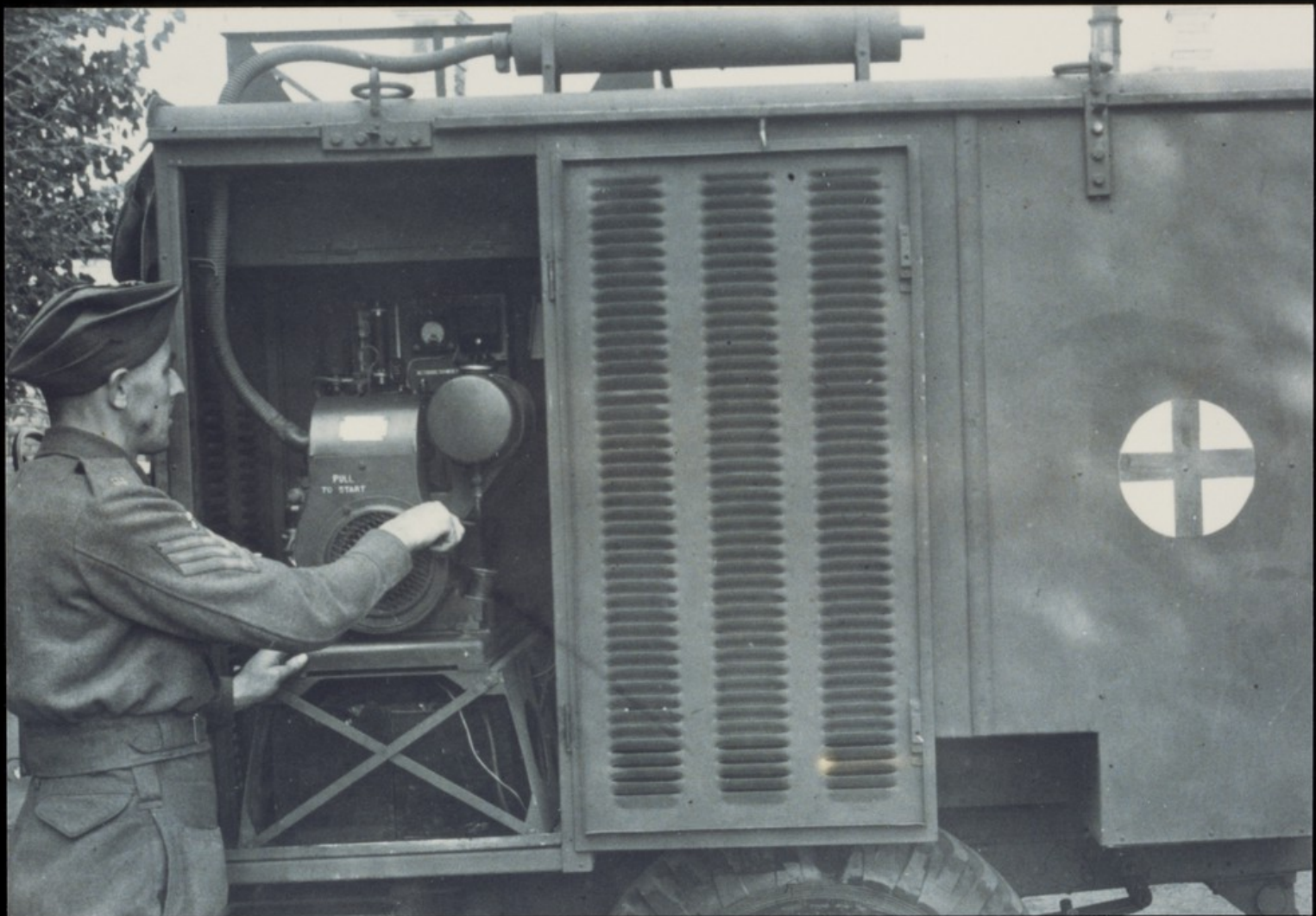


48

1/c 23

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A special Kapok lined insulated box, with ice insert in the lid. Each box held 2 crates (20 bottles) of blood. Each bottle is accompanied by a transfusion set. The blood in these boxes was kept cool for 8 hours and the total weight was 110lbs. The "Dragon-fly" light aircraft could carry 4 boxes.



50

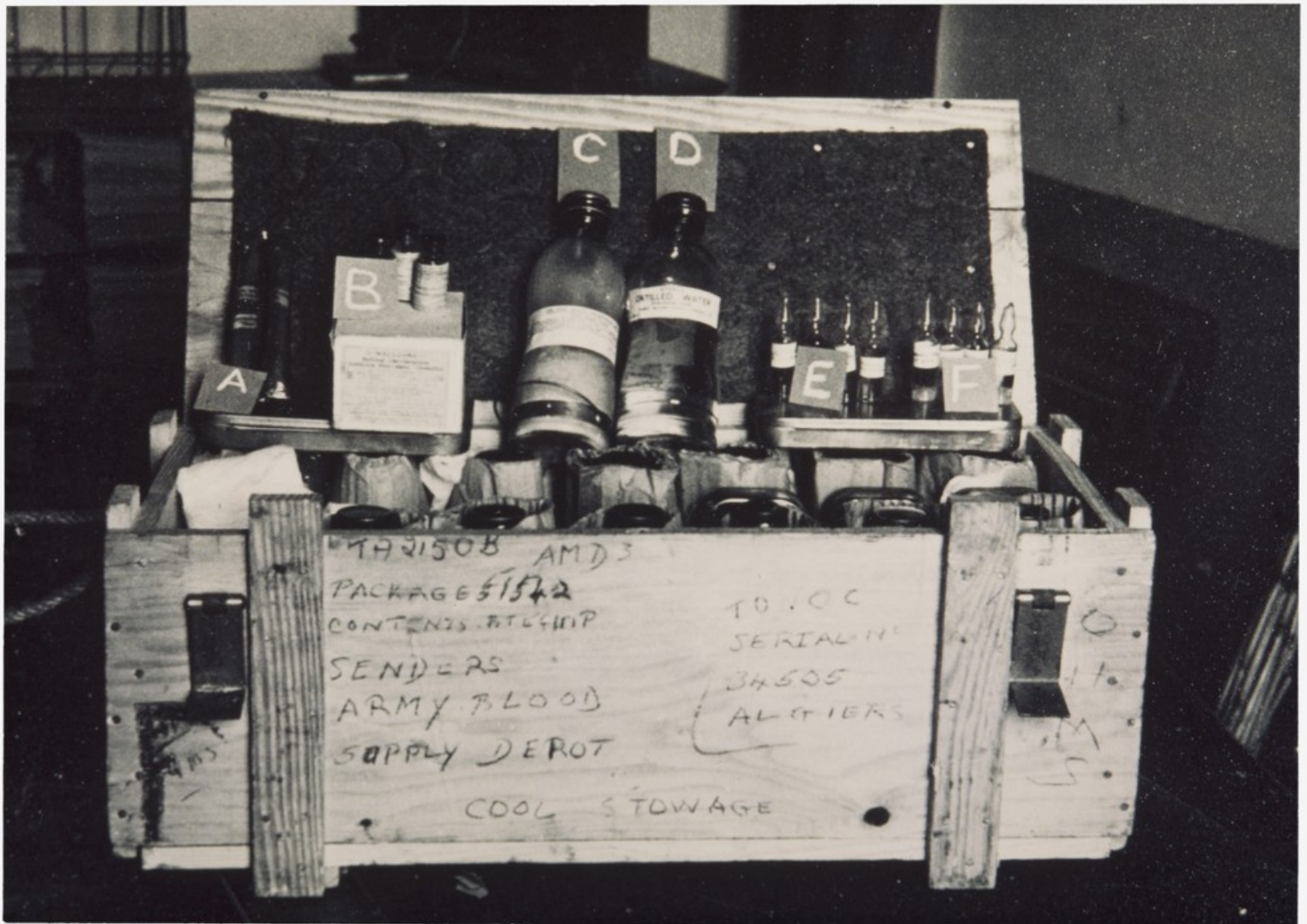
A/C24

A TYPE-A MOBILE BLOOD
BANK REFRIGERATOR WHICH
HAD A CAPACITY OF 20
CRATES (400 BOTTLES) OF BLOOD

A/C24



A Type-A mobile Blood Bank refrigerator which had a capacity of 20 crates (400 bottles) of blood.



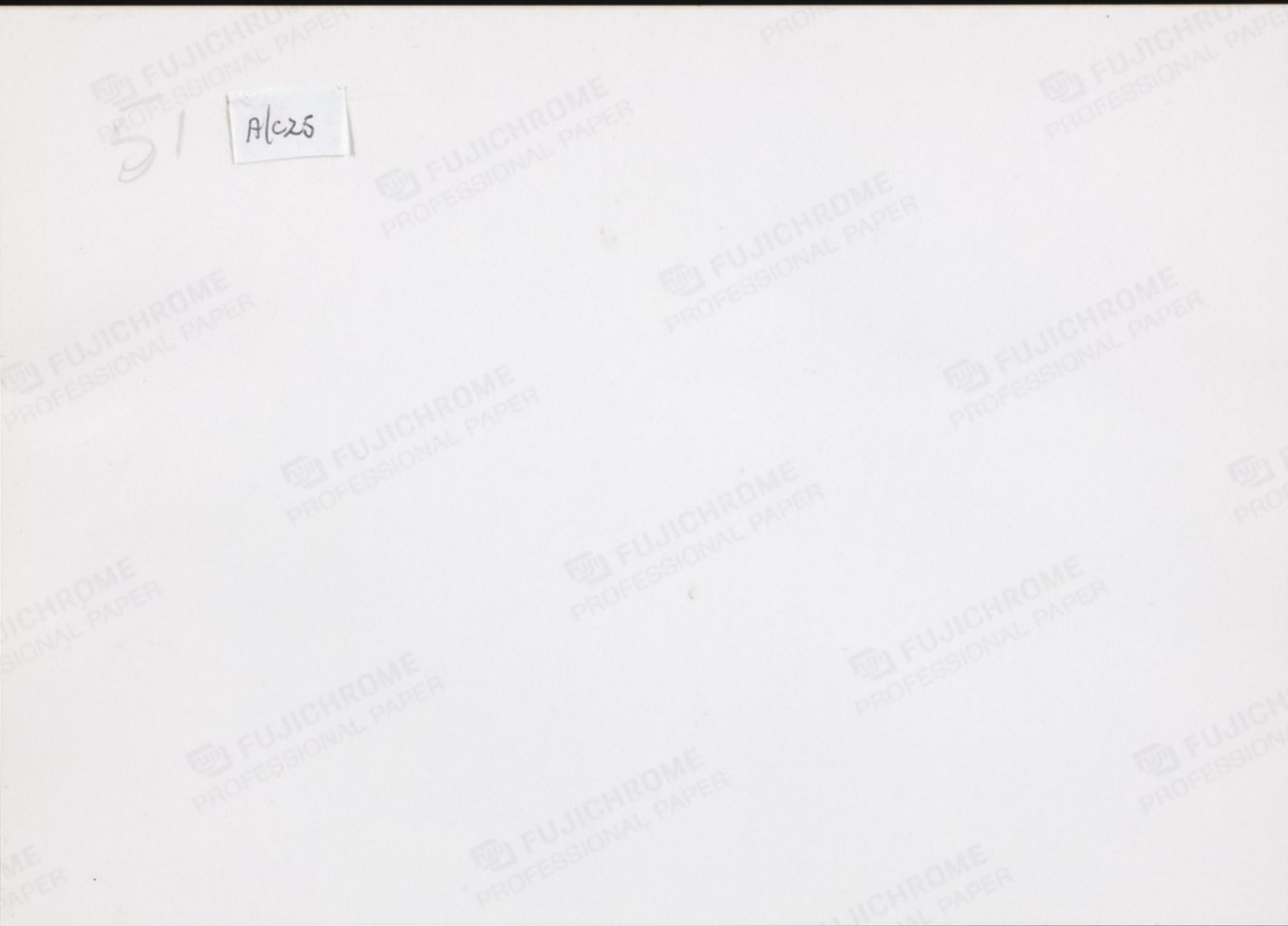
TH21508 AMD3
PACKAGE 51542
CONTENTS RTU SHIP
SENDERS
ARMY BLOOD
SUPPLY DEROT

TO IOC
SERIAL IN
34505
ALTIERS

COOL STORAGE

51

A/c25



A complete Transfusion Box sent in support of the 1st Army Group in North Africa. It contains dried plasma "C", Distilled Water for reconstituting the plasma "D", grouping anti-sera "E" and "F" and transfusion sets "under "E" and "F"".



THE OFFICER COMMANDING NO 2
ADVANCED BLOOD BANK (ABB) OF ? 26
FIELD TRANSFUSION UNIT (FTU),
UNLOADS BLOOD SOMEWHERE IN
NORMANDY, JUNE 1944.

Note: FOR SECURITY REASONS
THE CENSOR HAS OBLITERATED
THE NUMBER OF THE FTU

MC26

(3)

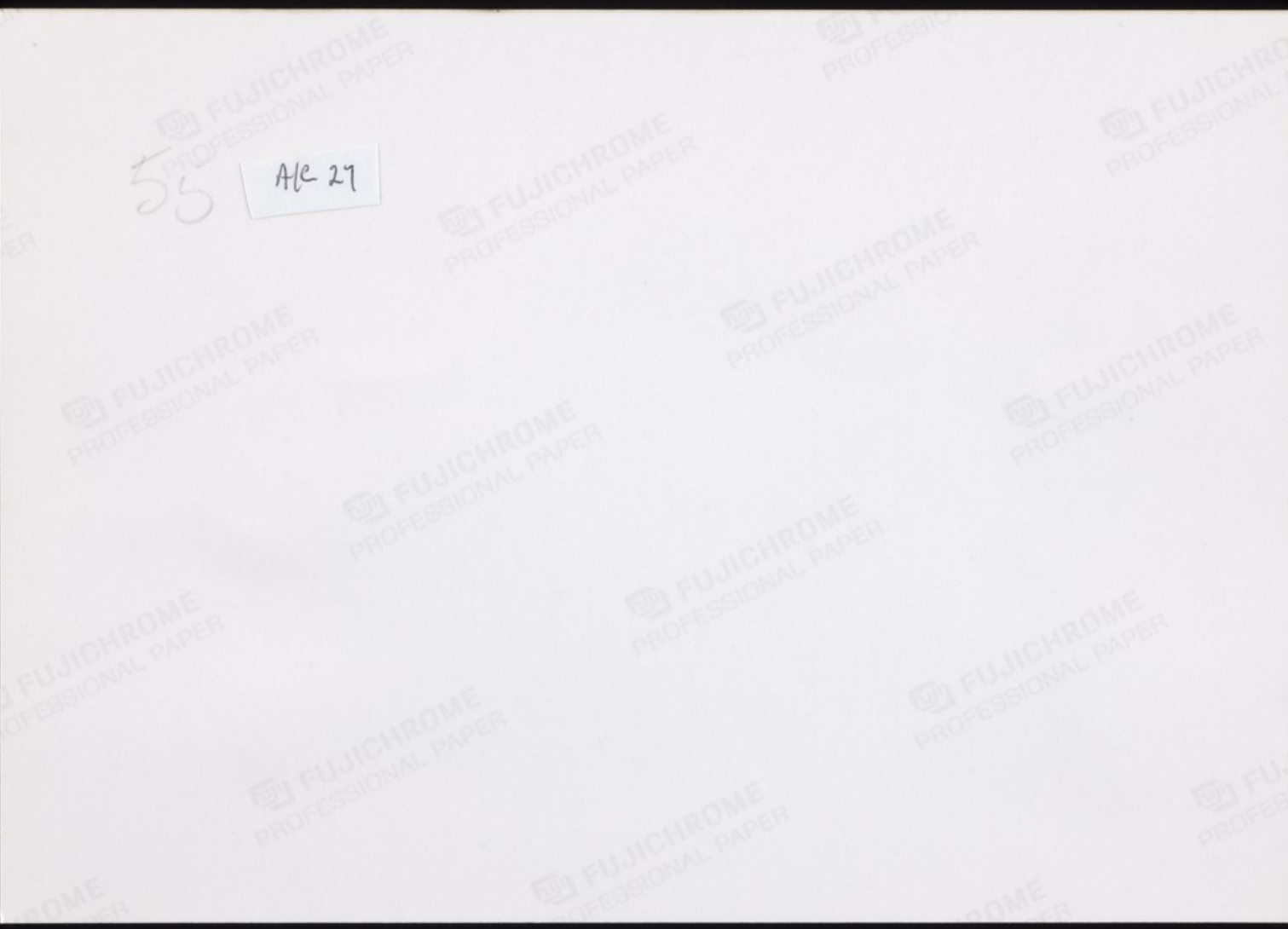
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The Officer Commanding No 2 Advanced Blood Bank (ABB), of ?26 Field Transfusion Unit (FTU), unloads blood “somewhere in Normandy” in June 1944. Note that the censor has obliterated the number of the FTU. This was done, for reasons of security, on the original negative before prints were released to the press for publication.



55

ALC 27

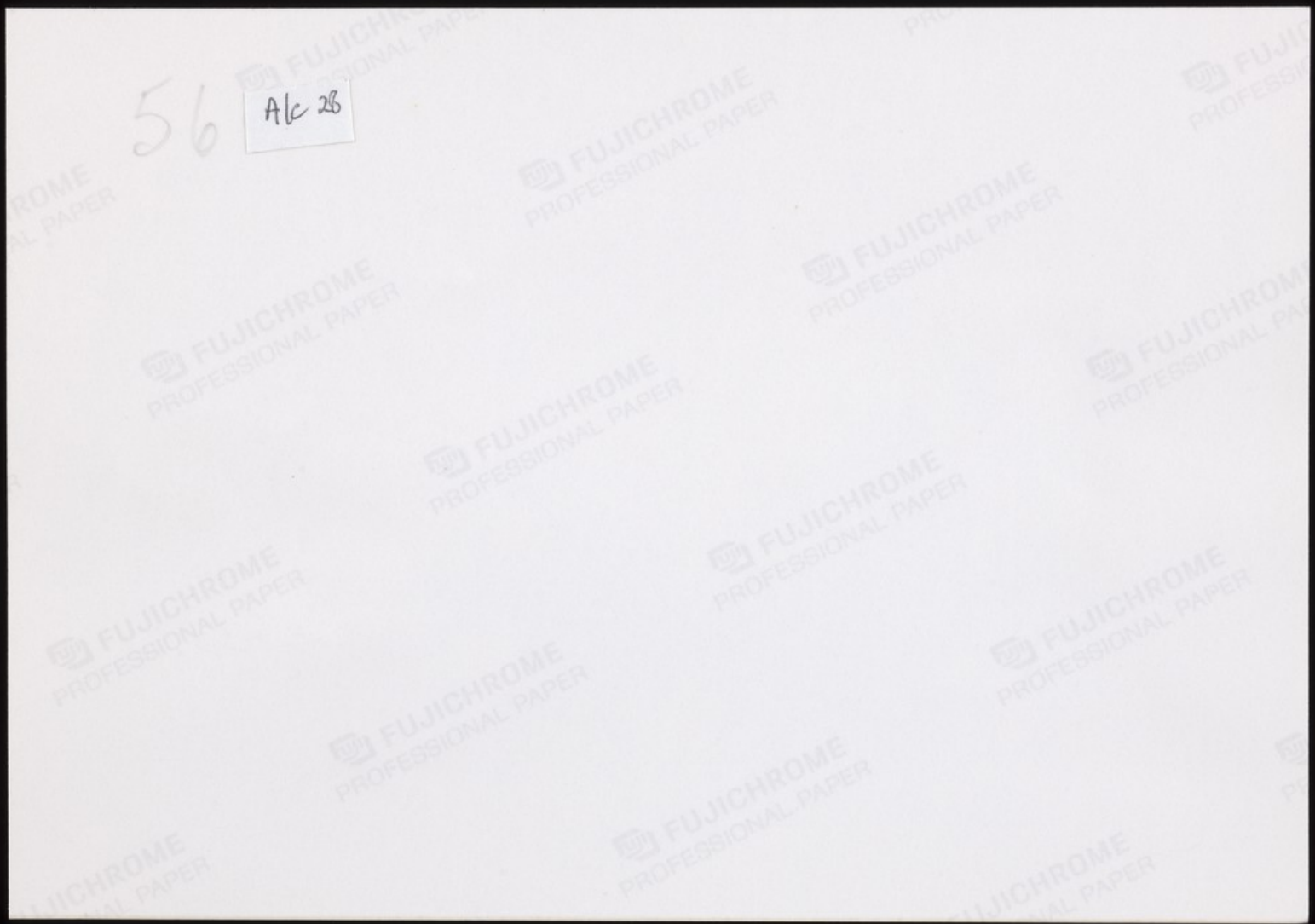


Boxes of dried plasma being unloaded from a De Haviland 86 by the staff of 1 FTU at Borg-el-Arab, North Africa in October 1942.



56

Ale 28

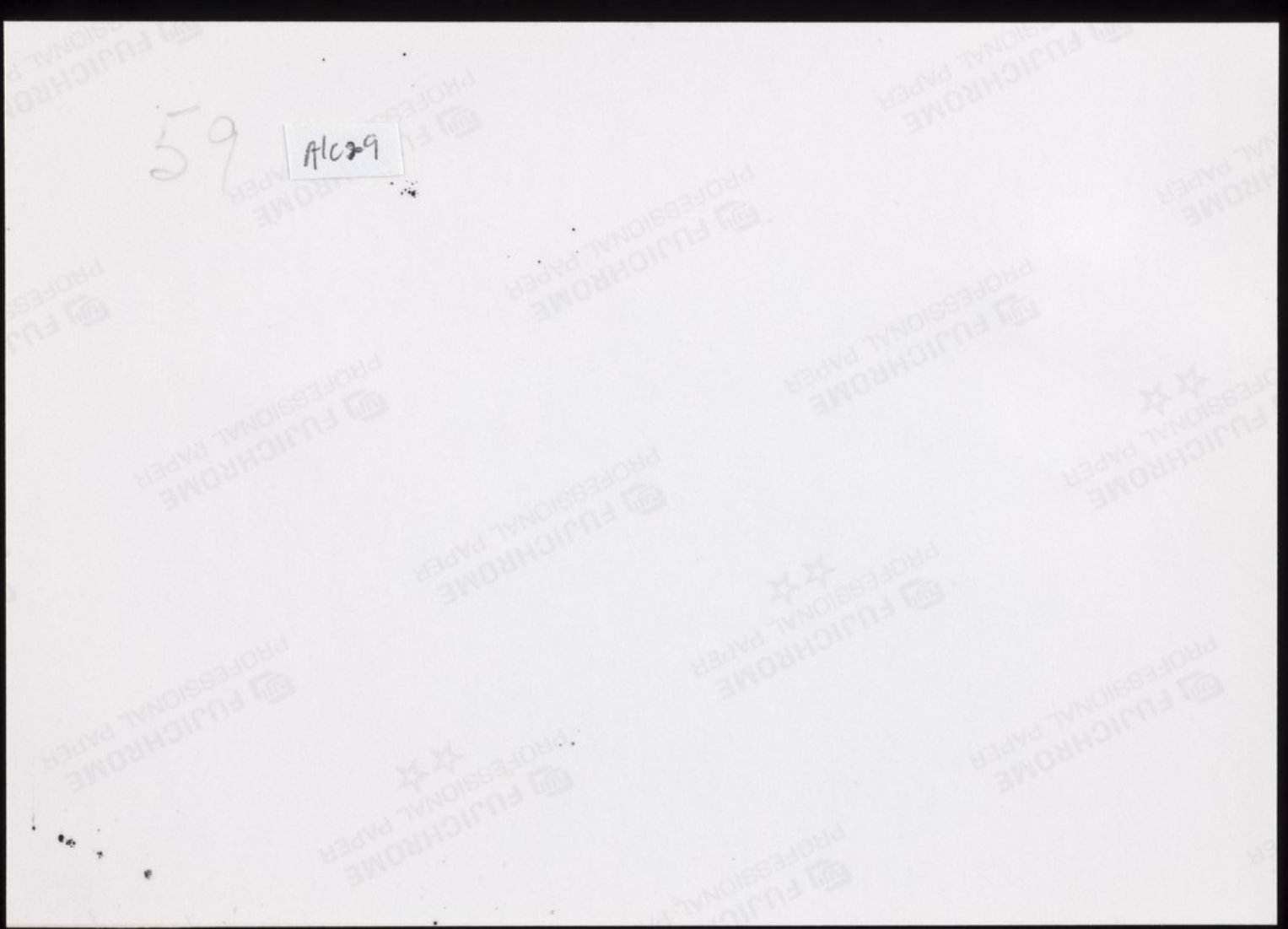


The “Empties” store at 3 FTU, October 1942.



59

A1629



The Overseas Despatch Store at ABSD. Bottles of plasma are packed prior to the D-Day invasion.

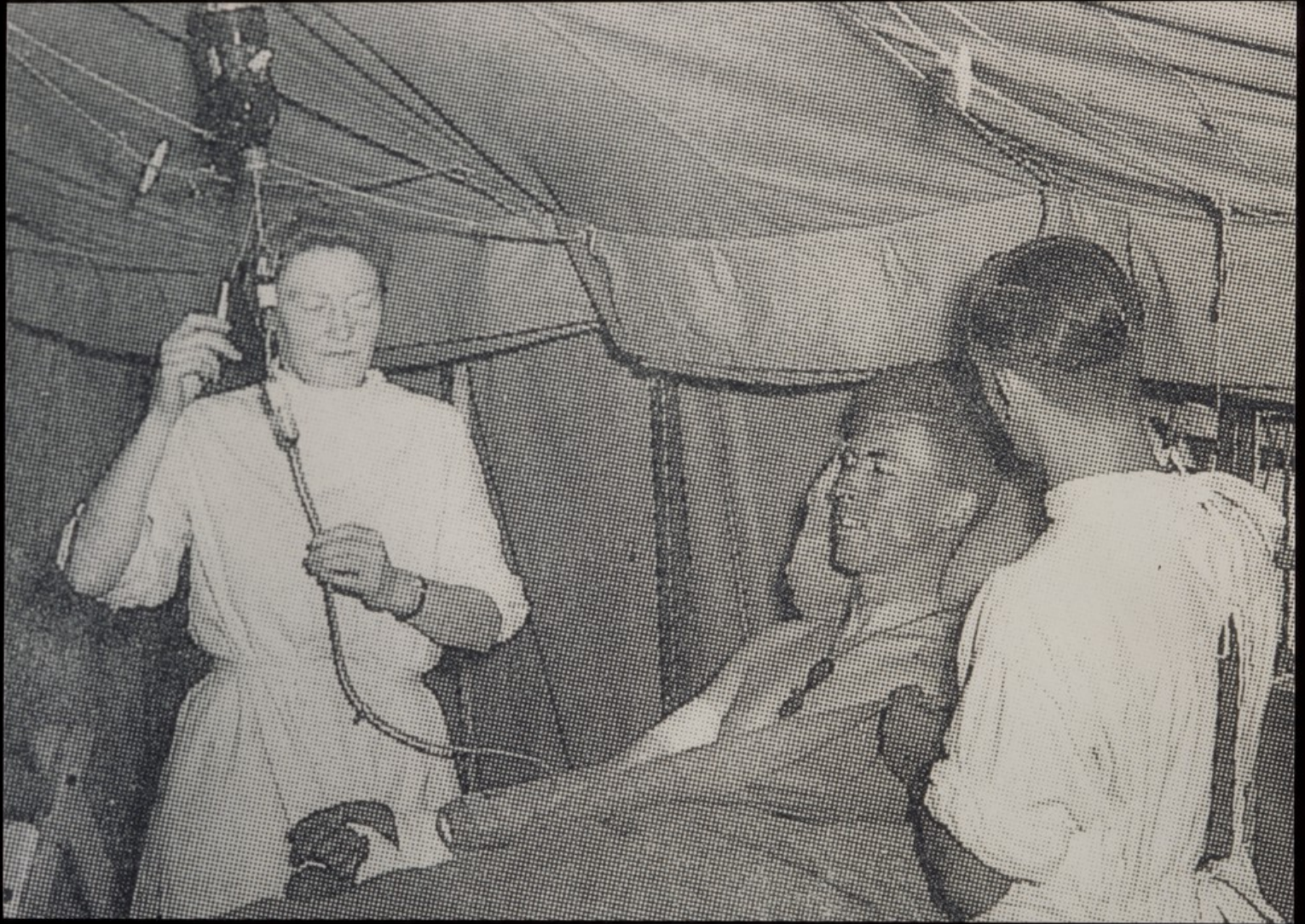


60

Mc30

FUJICHROME PROFESSIONAL PAPER

A motor-cycle despatch-rider (Don R) being recruited to deliver blood from an ABB during the battle of El-Alamein, October 1942.





A/1631

19

A blood transfusion is administered in a field hospital in
?Italy.

A.F.I. 1248 SCALE.

FIELD TRANSFUSION TEAM.

JAN. 1960

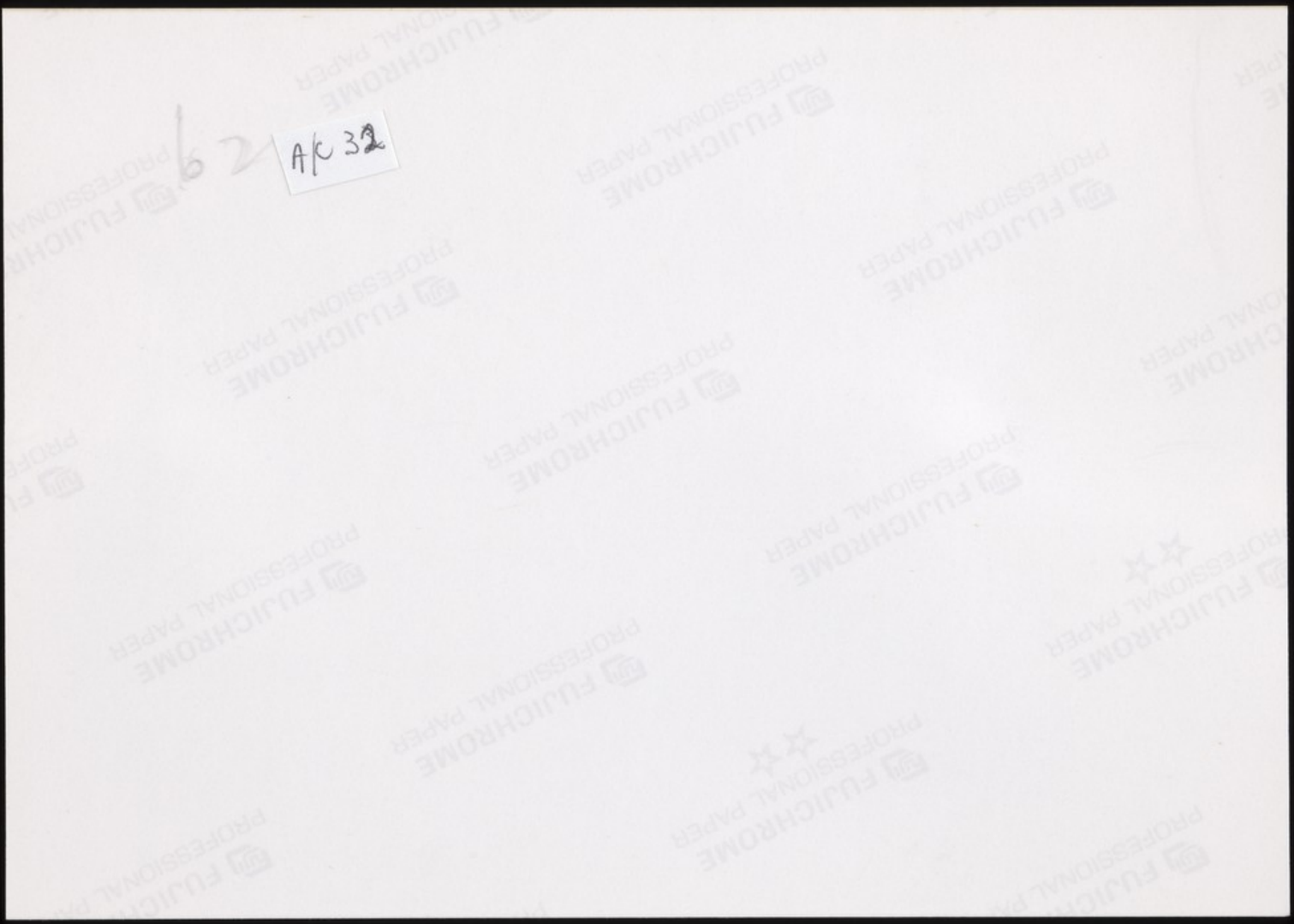
INFUSION FLUIDS	ITEMS	LITRES	WEIGHT, LB.	BULK, CU.F.
NORMAL SALINE	5 (a)	50	135	3.7
GLUCOSE ISOTONIC	10 (a)	100	270	7.3
DEXTRAN	7 (a)	80 (b)	189	5.1
PLASMA (DRIED)	16 (c)	58 (d)	720	28.4
M/6 SODIUM LACTATE	1 (e)	10	27	0.7
TOTALS	39	298	1341	45.2
<u>MEDICAL EQUIPMENT</u>				
BOXES TRANSFUSION 1 & 2	2	—	150	7.4
BOXES MISC. MED. EQPT.	1	—	60	3.7
STANDS B.T. STRETCHER	30	—	87	1.4
CONTAINERS INSULATED (JABLO BOXES)	4	—	116 (e)	11.3
TOTALS	76	298	1754	69.0

NOTE:-

- (a) CARTONS OF 10 PLASTIC PACKS EACH WITH OWN GIVING UNIT.
 (b) EXTRA CARTON OF DEXTRAN CARRIED IN BOX NO. 1.
 (c) BOXES OF 9 BOTTLES DRIED PLASMA + 5 PLASTIC PACKS OF ISOTONIC GLUCOSE + 6 PLASTIC GIVING SETS.
 (d) VOLUME OF PLASMA SHOWN IS THAT OF RECONSTITUTED PLASMA.
 (e) WEIGHT SHOWN = WEIGHT WHEN EMPTY.
 WEIGHT WITH 48 BOTTLES OF BLOOD = 219 lb.
 WEIGHT WITH 96 FULL FENWAL PACKS = 232 lb.

62

AK 32

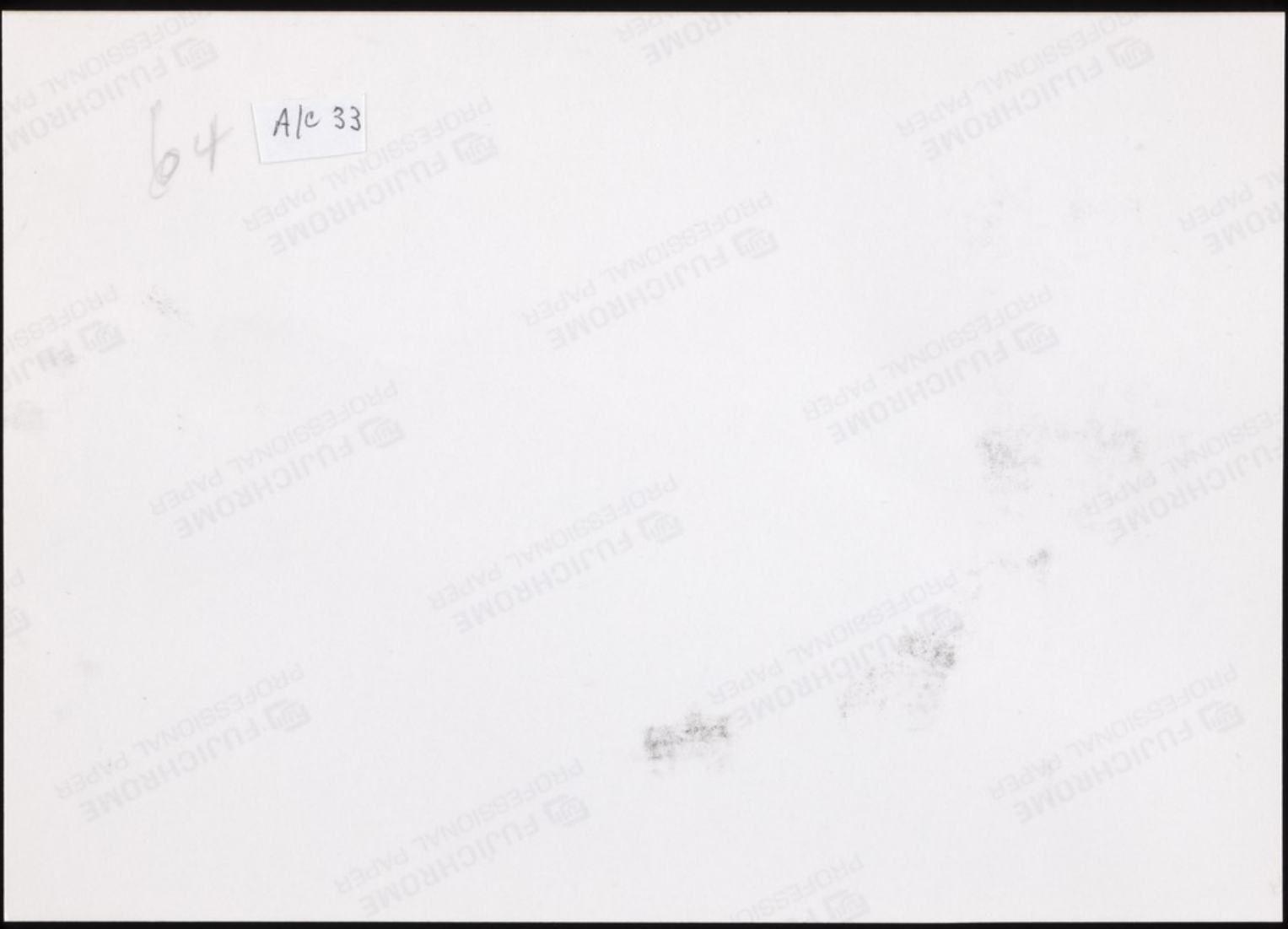


The Medical Equipment Scale (I 1248) for a Field
Transfusion Team, June 1960.



64

A/c 33



Keith Lucas, Officer Commanding 3 FTU, greets a comrade in front of his tent. 3 FTU was attached to 10 CCS before the battle of Mareth in 1942. Note the vampire bat on the unit site. The "Bat" was the title of the ABTS magazine which was published intermittently throughout the war.



66

A1039

An animal transfusion experiment is conducted under the supervision of the Commanding Officer ABSD, Colonel Lionel Whitby (1st on the left) and Captain W d'A Maycock (3rd from the left).



67

A/c 35

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ROME
APER

A casualty is removed from a bombed house in London during Blitz.



68

A/c 36

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A potential donor has his haemoglobin checked, whilst 2 donate a pint and 2 others recover. A field donor session ?” somewhere in France”, summer 1944.



71

Ale 37



“Good Order and Military Discipline”. The Commanding Officer inspects the FANYs.



WARTIME TIMES OF
ALBMIN

BBSC



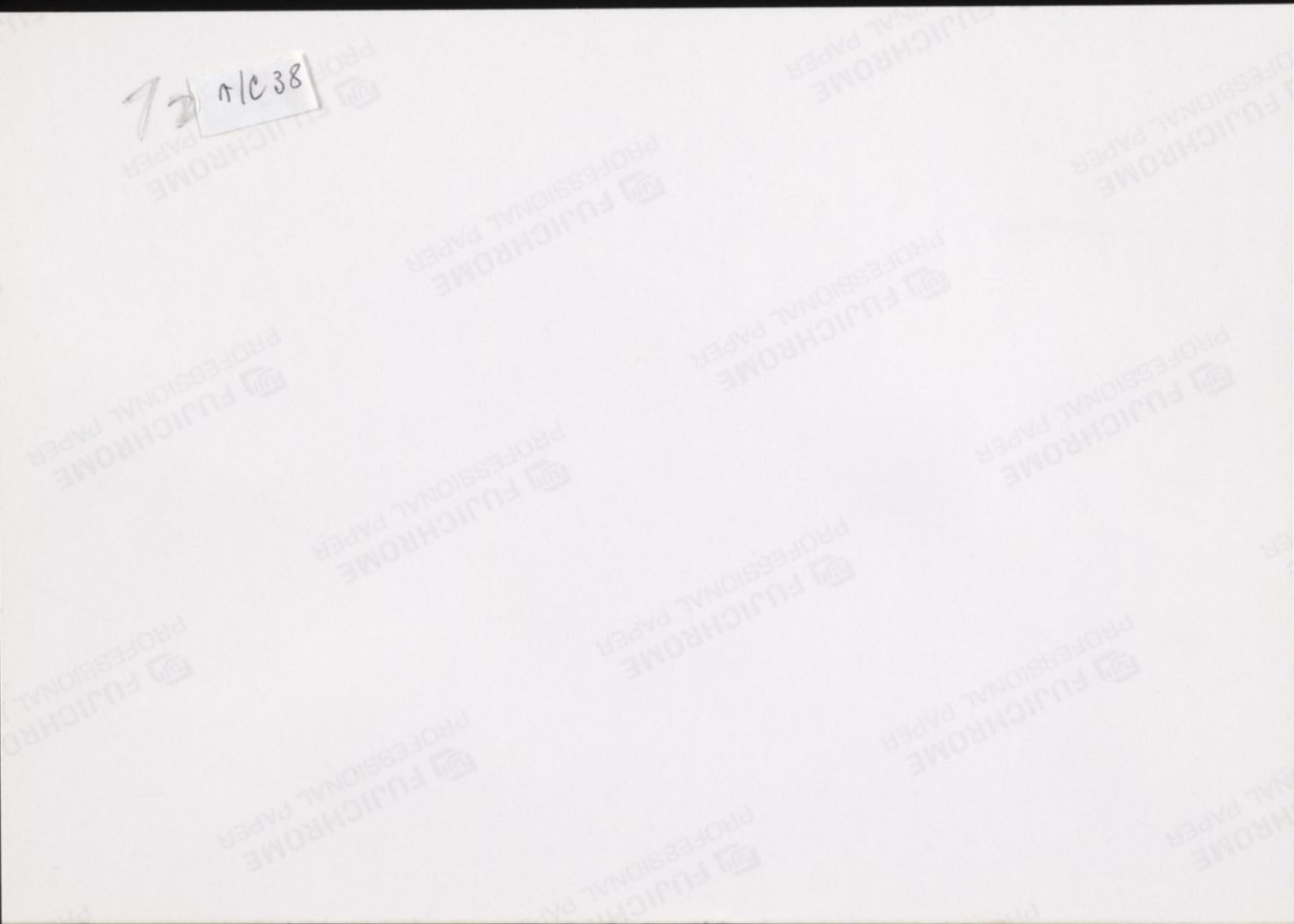
BBSC

WARTIME TINS OF ALBUMIN

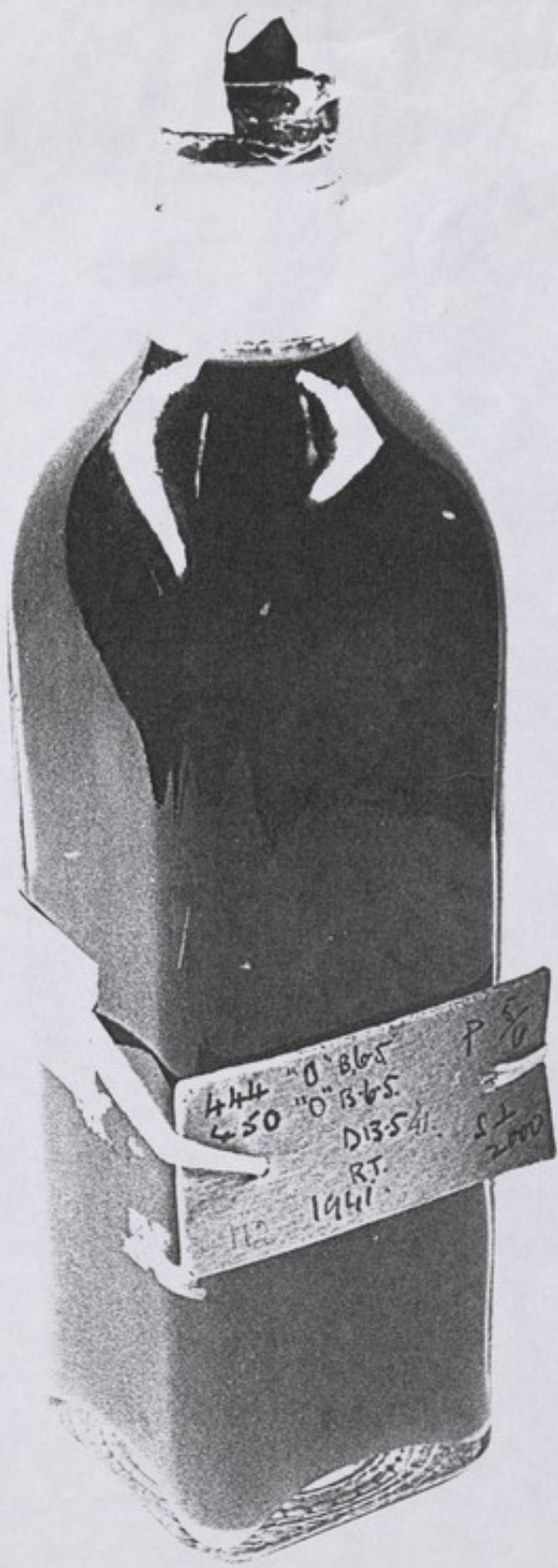


SANITAS ex SANGUINE

72 n/c38



The badge of the Army Blood Supply Dept, Aldershot, The Queens crown indicates that the unit is part of a Royal Corps (RAMC), the vampire bat has been the symbol of the ABTS since its inception in 1939, the caduceus is the symbol of healing and the motto means "Health from Blood".



444 "O'Blas
450 "O'Blas
DIBS 41
RT.
1941
P 5/10
S.L. 2000

1/12/40

UNFILTERED WET PLASMA DECANTED IN 1941 FROM BOTTLES OF BLOOD WHICH WERE MORE THAN FOUR DAYS OLD AND STORED AT ROOM TEMPERATURE WITH SULPHANILAMIDE 1/1,000 AT THE BLOOD AND RESUSCITATION UNIT, 64TH GENERAL HOSPITAL, ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT.

In view of the lack of glassware etc. from the United Kingdom for bottling blood or blood products, blood bottles were made locally in Egypt but plasma, in the experimental phase which lasted until after the Battle of El Alamein, was bottled at first in whisky bottles obtained from the barman at the Union club - the above specimen being a ½-bottle which formerly contained Johnnie Walker Whisky. As the clinical usefulness of unfiltered plasma became apparent and the blood bank increased in size, Gordon's Gin bottles, which each held about 600 ml. of undiluted plasma, were used. At the time of the Battle of El Alamein nearly 1,300 of these units, which had been stored frozen in the Royal Army Service Corps's meat safe in downtown Alexandria, were used in the resuscitation of casualties without any immediate toxic effects, although the very real possibility that some of these patients developed hepatitis subsequently cannot be ignored, as this infection was rife in the 8th Army at that time.