

Army Cameraman Johnny-on-the-Spot

Private Jacob Cherlin has been a student in the Army Signal Corps section since February 16, but he got a honey of a picture yesterday.

Off duty, Cherlin left the Fifteenth Signal Service headquarters in the War College and strolled toward the Anacostia River front. He carried a 4x5 Speed Camera owned by the Army, and was looking for a boy playing with some dogs to photograph.

As he neared the waterfront walking along Second street southwest, an amphibian came into vision about 200 yards offshore. The motor was making no sound and it was clear to Cherlin that the plane was going to plop into the water.

Cherlin raised the camera and flicked the shutter, quickly reversed the plateholder and shot another picture. He had only two plates, so his picture making was done.

Seeing that a rescue boat was on the way to the plane even before its tail had started settling into the water, Cherlin didn't even wait to see whether the plane became submerged. With true photographer's instinct, he wanted to know what his camera had caught and didn't even wait to see what happened to the plane.

So he raced back to the War College, summoned a buddy, and sped to The Washington Post.

His pictures were splendid. He had caught the subsiding splash of water as the plane hit. His second shot showed the plane's tail perpendicular. The lens was set at F11, the shutter speed was a ninetyeth of a second.

Cherlin has spent 14½ years in the Army, 12 of them as a musician. Lately he has become interested in photography and got a transfer to the Signal Service.

Yesterday he was pleased with his pictures and with his reward from The Post.