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The Invisible Cryptologists: African-Americans, World War II to 1956

By Jeannette Williams

Military Bookshop. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 52 pages. Dimensions: 10.8in. x 8.3in. x 0.2in. From the calling into existence of the first organized units of African American troops during the Civil War until the late 1940s, the armed forces of the United States were segregated by race. Given the prevailing racial attitudes, especially within Americas military leadership, the process of integration was relatively slow paced, even after President Trumans 1948 Executive Order officially rendered segregation in the military inoperable. Even civilian employees in the U. S. defense establishment endured the pains of segregation and the slow evolutionary path of its demise. The Invisible Cryptologists: African-Americans, WW II to 1956 is a study of one small Government agency's journey away from racial injustice. During World War II, what was then the Signals Intelligence Service (SIS) began hiring African Americans, up until then employed mainly as messengers, to decipher commercial telegraph codes that might contain valuable information emanating from companies in Tokyo, Berlin, and other international locations. After the war, the machine section (or the plantation, one of its numerous unflattering nicknames) used African Americans to transfer Russian intercepts from radio tapes to punch cards a tedious job in hot and dirty...



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