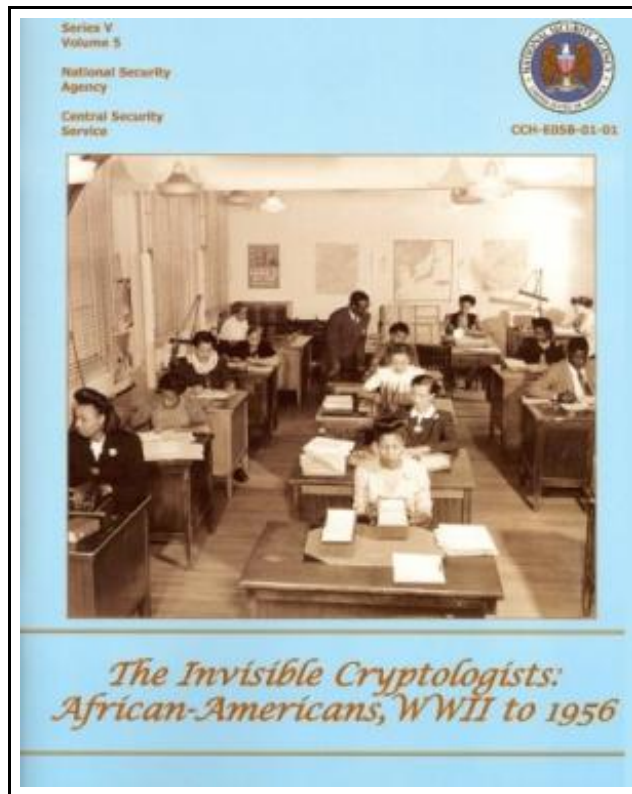


The Invisible Cryptologists: African-Americans, WWII to 1956: Series V: The Early Postwar Period, 1945-1952, Volume 5



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Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 52 pages. Dimensions: 10.0in. x 8.0in. x 0.1in. The origins of this book were in the cryptologic equivalent of an urban legend and a couple of photographs. During research on the early days of NSA, historians at the Center for Cryptologic History (CCH) learned of the employment of African-Americans at the Agency in the period after World War II. Occasionally, in informal conversations with former NSA seniors, the subject of minority history would come up, and CCH historians collected anecdotes about segregated offices in the early days. It became apparent that the employment of African-Americans came even earlier than previously thought. No information, however, confirmed any contribution by African-Americans during the world war. In early 1996, the History Center received as a donation a book of rather monotonous photographs of civilian employees at one of NSAs predecessors receiving citations for important contributions. Out of several hundred photographs, only two included African-Americans an employee receiving an award from Colonel Preston Corderman (reproduced on page 14) and the same employee posing with his family. Although undated, the matrix of the photograph indicated it had been taken in 1945 or early 1946. This made it likely the person was receiving an award for wartime contributions. It therefore became a high priority in the History Center to investigate the story behind this photograph and learn the truth behind the unconnected anecdotes about African-Americans in the early days of the cryptologic organization. In 1998 it became possible to hire a few additional historians for a year to supplement the History Centers permanent staff. Ms. Jeannette Williams applied to research the early history of African-Americans in cryptology. Assisted by Ms. Yolande Dickerson, Ms. Williams undertook an exhaustive search of the cryptologic archives and recovered the...



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