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I Was a Cryptologic Corporal!

Editor's Note: Another letter from the Agency's historical files.

January 29, 1946

Sir:

A year ago, I submitted a cryptographic invention to your office.

I have received several letters from various men in your office assuring me that the device would receive their close attention and that "The Chief Signal Officer wishes me to express thanks for the interest you've shown in this subject."

Their letters, of course, caused quite a bit of excitement to my buddies; but to me, it was just another letter expressing the Chief Signal Officer's thanks.
When I invented the device, in Pueblo, Colorado, I was a Corporal. When I first wrote to you from Tucson, Arizona, I was a Corporal. When I sent the device from Wendover, Utah, I was a Corporal. And when I was corresponding with your office from Tinian, Marianas, I was a Corporal. When I received my discharge from Rosewell, New Mexico, I was a Corporal.

It seems that all the thing ever did for me was keep me a Corporal. I at least expected one rating for showing initiative and interest in my work. And I was hurt because I was never given a promotion.

If I had received a little consideration from my superior Officers for the work I did in at least trying to aid my country, I would have been satisfied. But apparently everyone with whom I came in contact had their own personal gain at heart, and it sickened me. Therefore, I felt that I should have received a little special consideration for my efforts.

I wasn't especially concerned about a rating, all I ever wanted was to be kept off of K.P.

I expressed my desire to my Commanding Officer and Communications Officer, but they tilted their heads back and laughed.

Sir, I have taken a beating in the Army. I tried hard and my work was always done and done right. Therefore I feel that I should receive some reward for my efforts.

Sir, I want $10,000.00 for my cryptographic invention. I feel that isn't too high, and it will make up for the ratings I should have had but didn't get in 4 and ½ years in the Army.

Respectfully yours,

/Signed/

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