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HEADQUARTERS
ARMY SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*Last Man for
of private history*

WDGSS-52

30 September 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Laboratory Branch for Period 16 September to 30 September 1945
THRU: Chief, Operating Services Division
TO: Commanding General, Army Security Agency

1. During the current reporting period, the chief difficulty encountered in the Laboratory Branch has been that of replacing enlisted personnel with civilian personnel. Job descriptions were prepared during the last reporting period but the grades allocated to these jobs by the Personnel Branch have been so low that qualified personnel would not accept the jobs offered. For example, the grade allocated to a Photostat and Blueprint operator was only CAF-2 although it was specified that the person filling the position must be able not only merely to operate the technical machinery involved but also to service and maintain a Blueprinter, a Gally type Photostat Machine and an Automatic Photostat Machine. Although other agencies are receiving higher grades for these jobs, the trend in the Personnel Branch has been to take a very conservative attitude on the promise that the grades are going to be cut in other agencies. It is believed that if key personnel could be obtained for the supervisory positions and untrained personnel obtained for the supervised positions and then trained under present grades allocated, as soon as these latter personnel were completely trained they would resign and get better paying jobs in Washington, thus having Laboratory Branch serve merely as a training school with an 80-90 % turnover in low pay personnel every three or four months. The only solution to the problem appears to lie in insisting that Personnel Branch rate the jobs higher, otherwise when the WAC disbands, Laboratory Branch will be forced to reduce production to about one tenth of present standards.

2. During this period the German Secret Ink Testing Machine has been assembled in Room 0045 B Building and is now undergoing operational tests. It is believed it will be available for inspection within ten days.

3. The Houston Developing machine has been received and almost completely installed. This machine will be operating on 2 October.

4. All Commercial intercept facilities have been installed (at Washington, New York, San Francisco, and San Antonio) and are now operating. Some minor difficulties have arisen but these have been corrected to the satisfaction of all concerned. The centralized filming of traffic from RCA, Commercial Cables, and Mackay Radio in Washington becomes effective 1 October with a temporary location at 927 15th Street N. W.

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6. Plans have been made and \$900 in cash allocated by G-2 for the purchase, as wastepaper, of all traffic in New York from 1 January 1942 to 1 July 1943. Contacts will be made with the Commercial Companies on 2 October.

6. Certain equipment in the Laboratory Branch is becoming unserviceable with use and age. The present photostat machine, originally secured from Signal Corps Salvage, is now in bad condition, the engineering board (for large originals) being entirely unserviceable, certain other parts of the machine being wired together with photographic tape. A study of future requirements for photostating in the Army Security Agency is underway and a report is being prepared indicating the desirability of purchasing an automatic machine from Surplus Property at one half price.

7. With the exception of two pictures of Branch Staff Personnel the Pictorial History is complete in negative form. No report has been received as to the number of copies to be printed.

W. B. FORTUNE.
Lt. Col., Signal Corps
Chief, Laboratory Branch

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