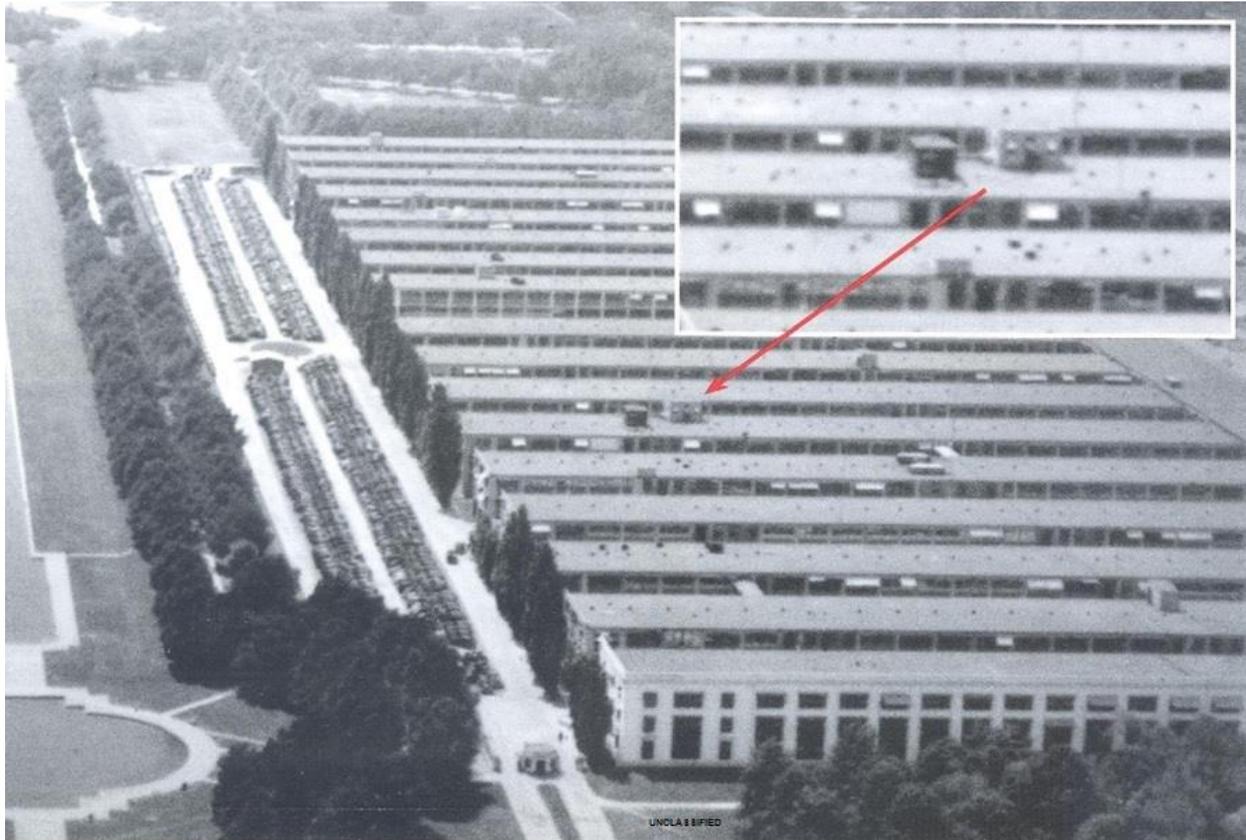


Historic photograph:



The On-the-Roof Gang (OTR) was an elite group within the U.S. Navy in the early 20th century. From the late 1920s through the 1930s, small groups of Navy radiomen trained in intercept techniques, with a focus on the Japanese Navy. These radiomen were pioneers in intercept and formed the core of the Navy's COMINT collection service through World War II.

The classes on intercept were conducted in the Navy Building in Washington, D.C. Possibly for security reasons, possibly because they needed a place with good radio reception, the radiomen trained in a hut on the roof of one of the building's wings. Over time, their training location got them their nickname. (The Navy Building no longer exists; it was located in the area where the Vietnam Memorial is today.)

Recently, *Cryptolog*, a publication of the Navy Cryptologic Veterans Association, ran a 1938 photograph of the Navy Building, with a close-up inset showing the OTR training hut. We reproduce it here for our professional education.