When the United States entered WWII, African Americans were drafted, just as white Americans were. However, African Americans were put into segregated units, often relegated to manual labor jobs, not combat. The military high command rejected the idea of racial integration.

In 1944, orders came to the Army's cryptologic organization, headquartered at Arlington Hall Station, to hire African Americans and give them meaningful work in cryptanalysis.

War time is no time for social EXPERIMENTS.

Gen. George C. Marshall
Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army

Your task is to recruit the people for this job. Get on with it, Major!

How the heck are we supposed to find qualified people for this?
I don't know any!

The commander of Arlington Hall passed these orders to one of his action officers.