

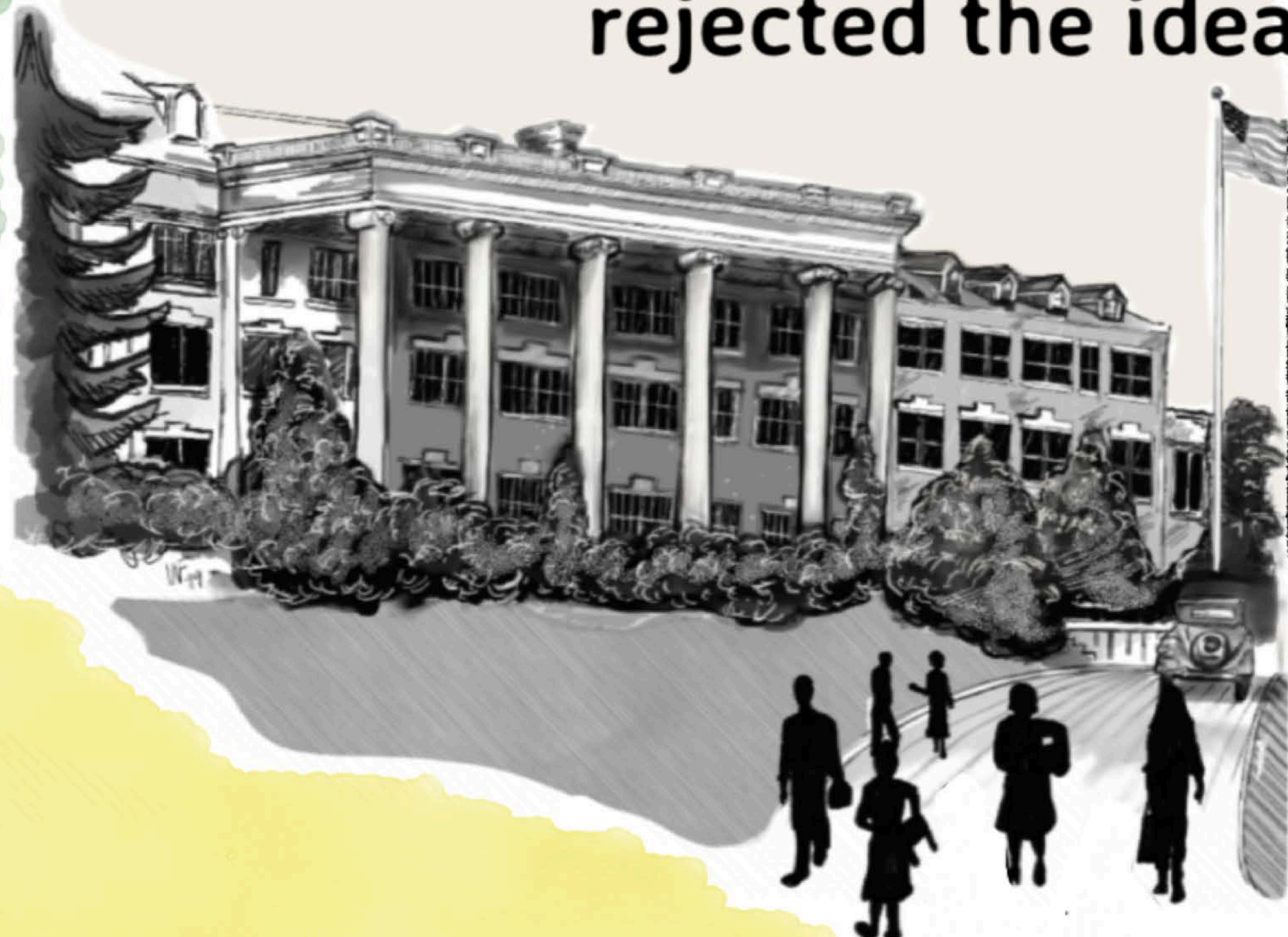


War time is no time for social EXPERIMENTS.



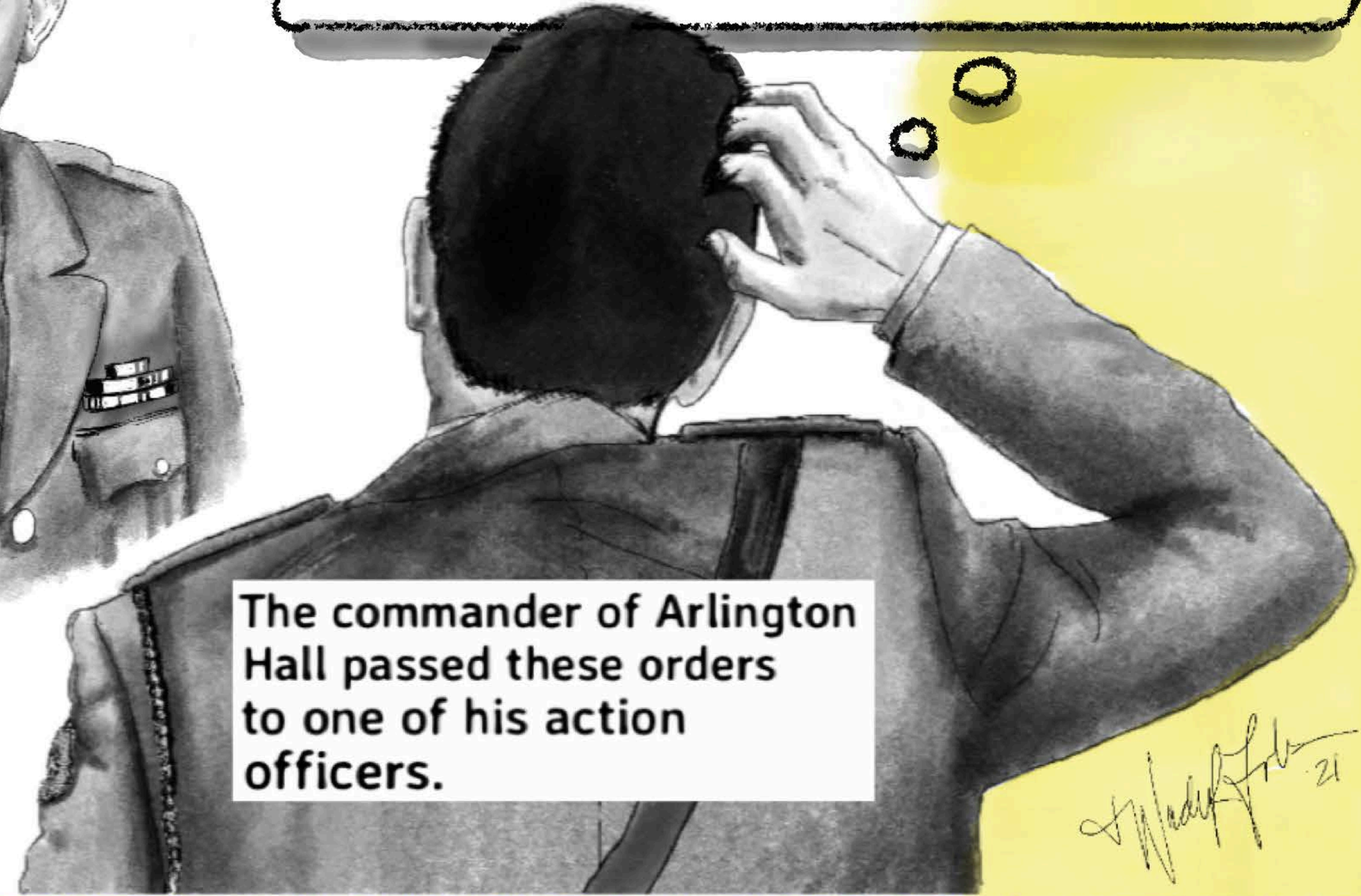
Gen. George C. Marshall
Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army

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.



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.

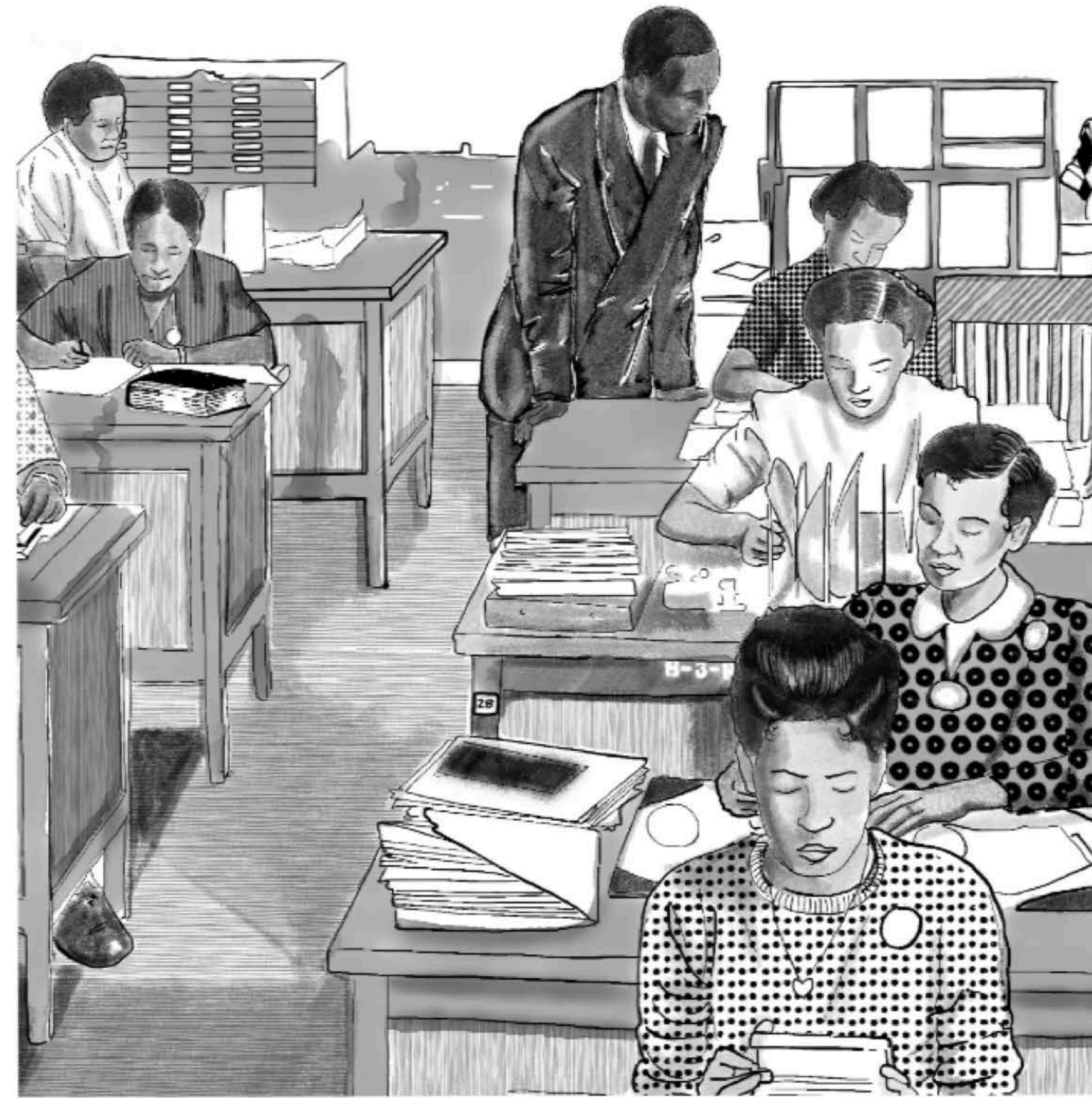
In 1944, orders came to the Army's cryptologic organization, headquartered at Arlington Hall Station, to hire African Americans and give them meaningful work in cryptanalysis.

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Many African Americans were hired and assigned to do cryptanalysis against systems the Army had not been able to get at because of the lack of staff power.

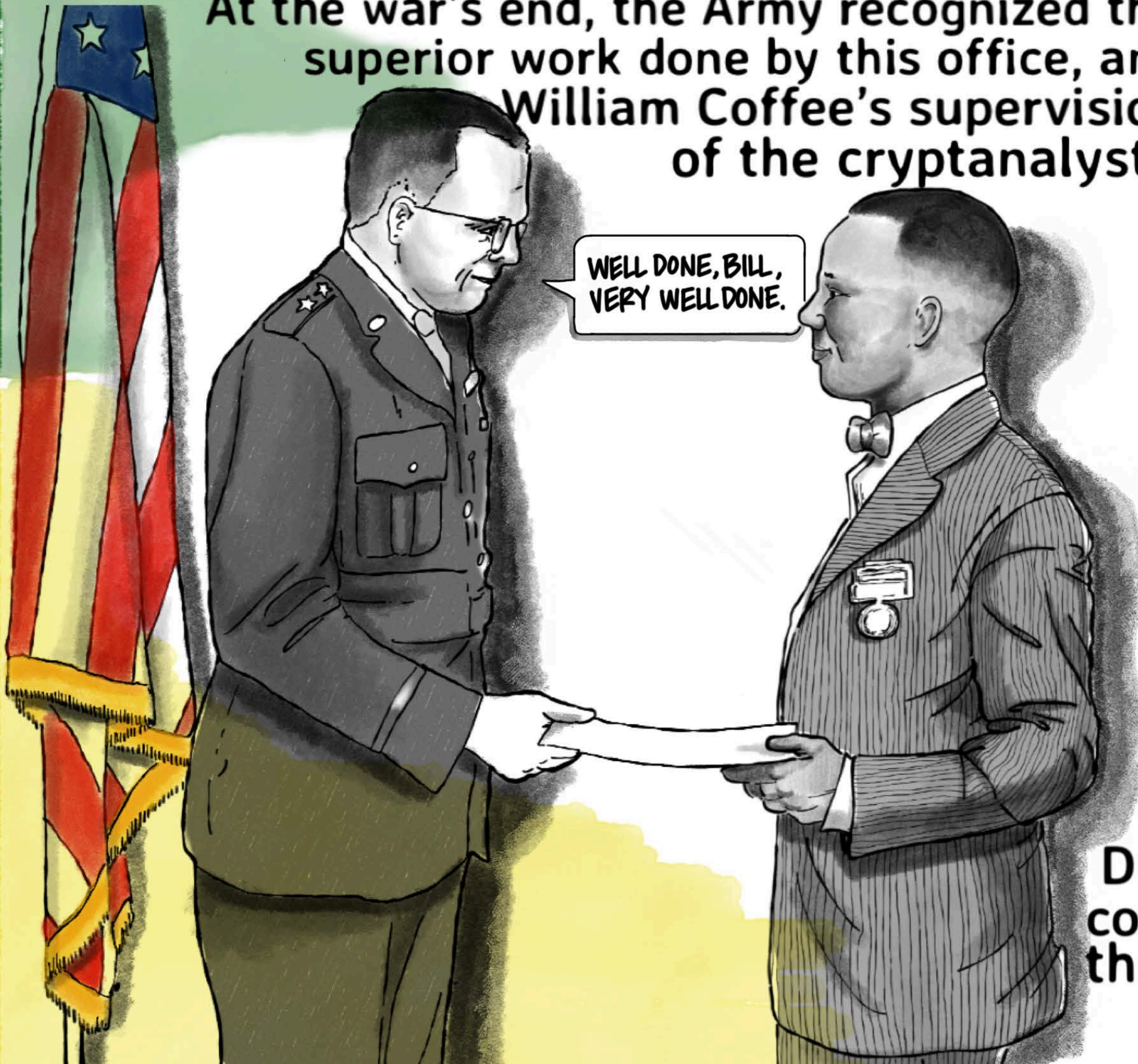


FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN CRYPTOLOGISTS #010



On paper, a white officer was chief of this office. However, in actual practice, William Coffee supervised the work of the all African American office at Arlington Hall Station.

At the war's end, the Army recognized the superior work done by this office, and William Coffee's supervision of the cryptanalysts.



Discrimination against minorities in the cryptologic organizations continued long after the war. At NSA, William Coffee continued as the Agency's conscience, and, with many colleagues, struggled for equal opportunities for all Americans.