

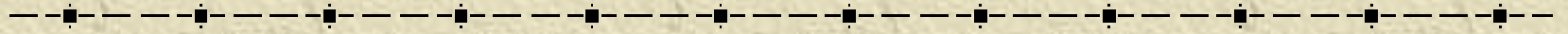
Intercepting WW II Enemy  
Wireless Signals  
at  
Ottawa Monitoring Station

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Ernie Brown  
VA3OEB

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# Intercepting Enemy Wireless



## **History of Ottawa Monitoring Station**

# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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## ✦ History of Ottawa Monitoring Station

- ✦ VAA communications station c1926 (monitoring added c1930)



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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- ◆ Radio Test Rooms

# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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- ◆ Central Experimental Farm Greenhouse



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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- ◆ Circa 1935 crystal

## ✧ Locations

- ◆ Radio Test Rooms
- ◆ Central Experimental Farm Greenhouse
- ◆ T. R. Booth Farmhouse
- ◆ New building - 1941



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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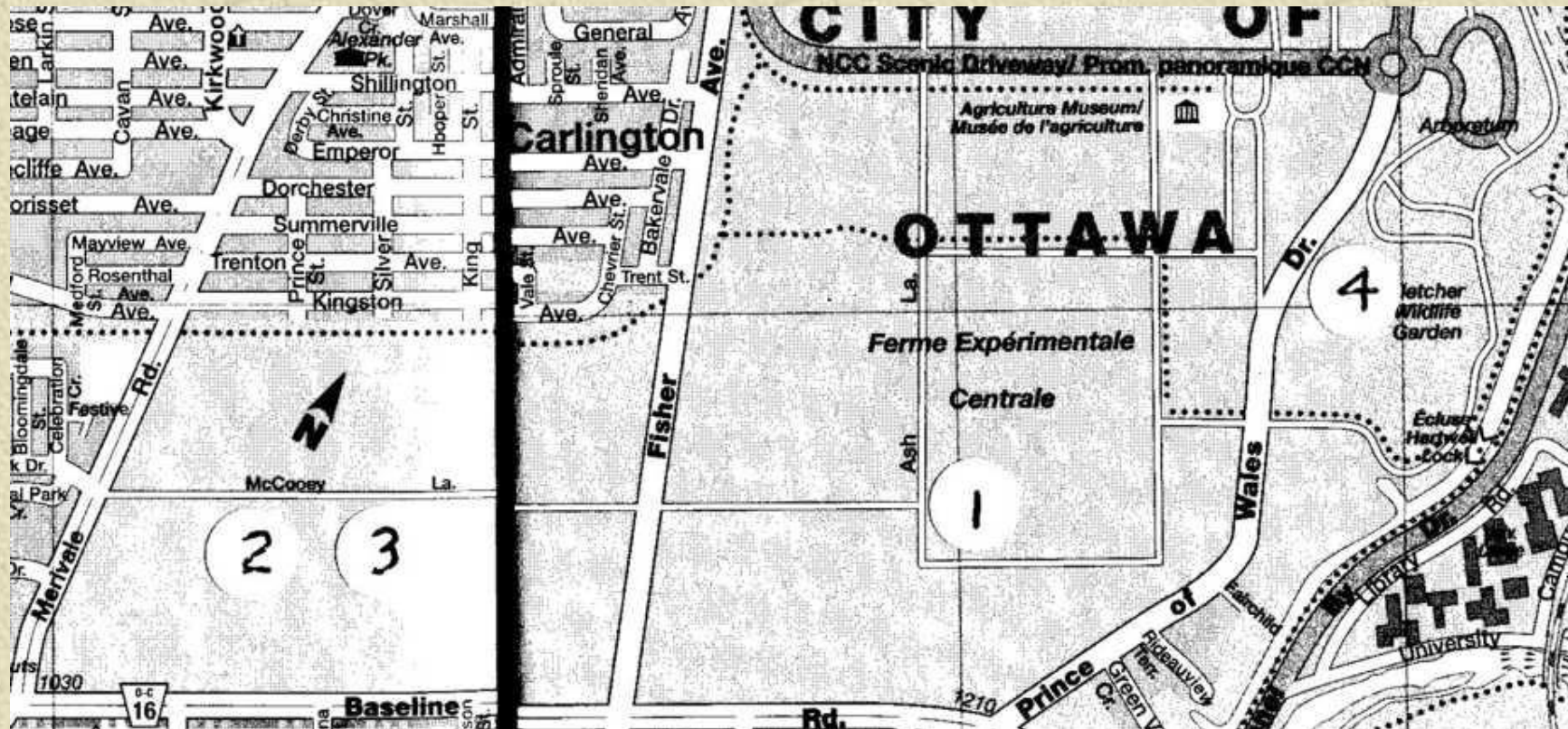


**New Building -  
Summer 1942,  
Winter 1943**





# Intercepting Enemy Wireless



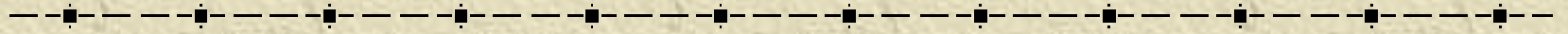
Site #1 is the former Booth Farmhouse location.

Site#2 is the location of the new station, where the building still stands among the trees.

Site #3 is the DF site.

Site #4 is the location of the RCN Station CFF.

# Intercepting Enemy Wireless



 **Interdepartmental Agreement**

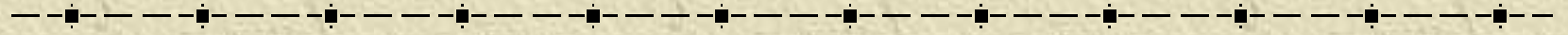


# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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## ✦ Interdepartmental Agreement

### ◆ Objectives and Task



## **Interdepartmental Agreement**

-  **Objectives and Task**

-  **Growth 1939-41**

# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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## ✦ Interdepartmental Agreement

- ◆ Objectives and Task
- ◆ Growth 1939-41
- ◆ Operations 1942-45



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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- ✦ **Sixteen Monitoring Positions, each with:**
  - ◆ **HRO Receiver - used tuning coil “drawers”**
  - ◆ **“Mill” (Manual typewriter - all caps/numerals)**

# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

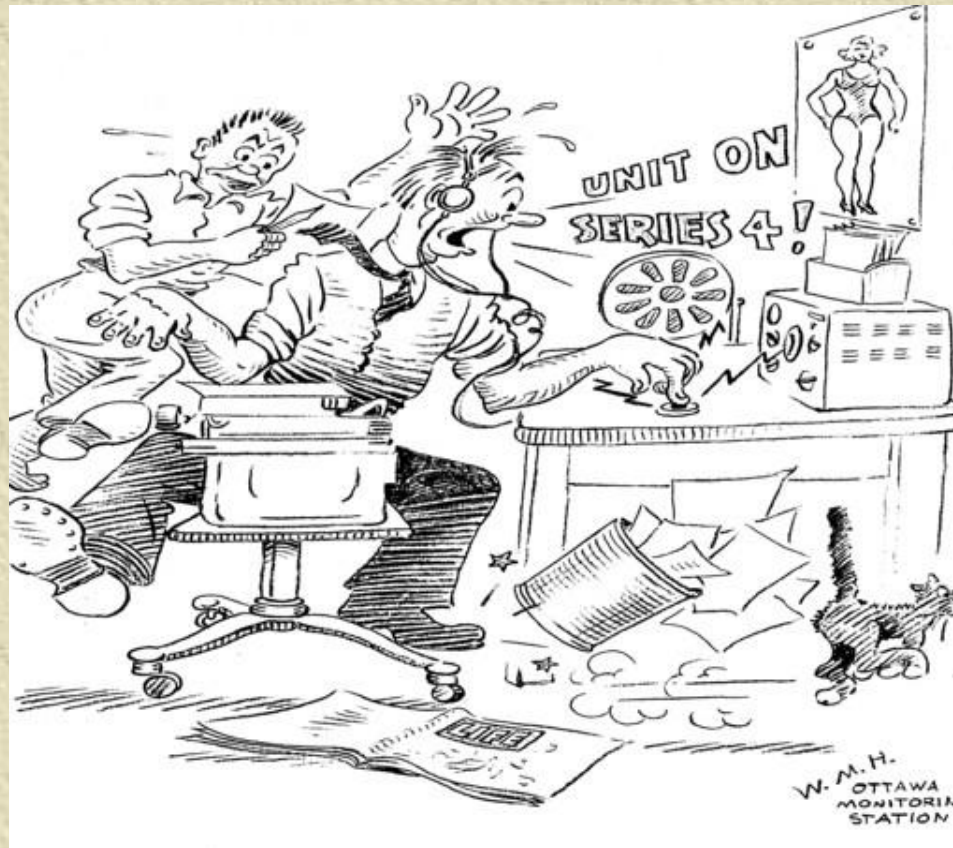
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**Photo shows shift change at Ottawa Monitoring Station**



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

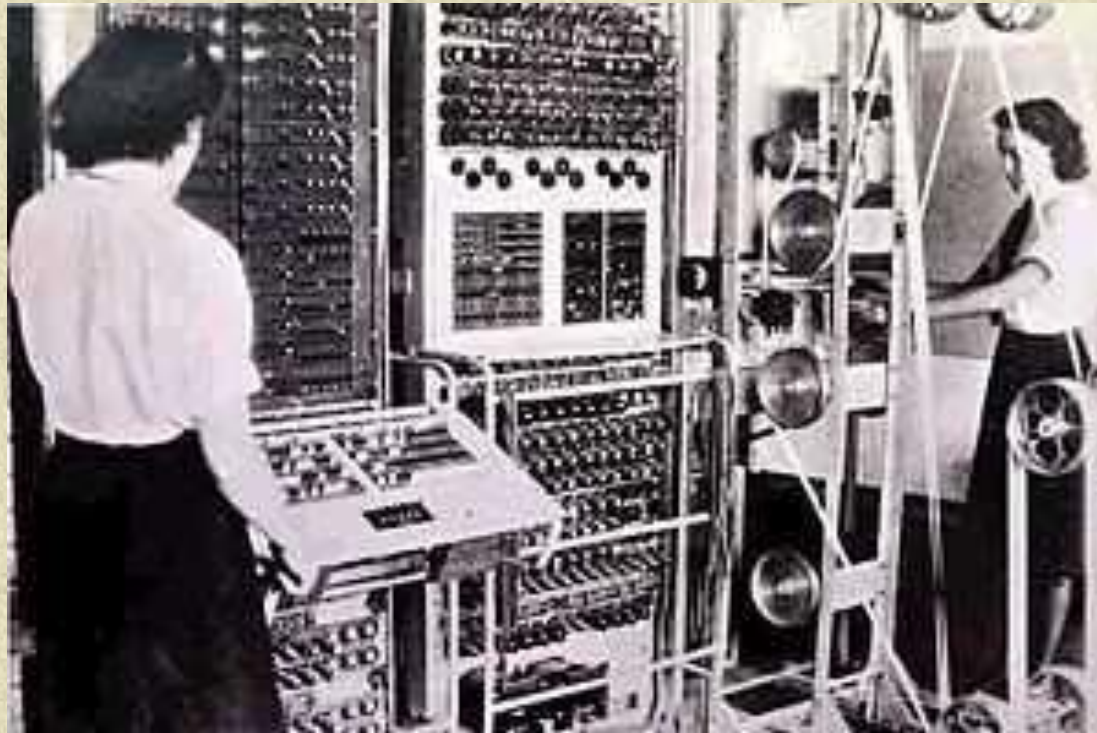


✦ Identifying a Mobile Signal



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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- ✦ **Intercepts left OMS by teletype to RCN HQ**
- ✦ **Routed by trans-Atlantic cable to ultimate destination Bletchley Park for decryption by Colossus computer**

# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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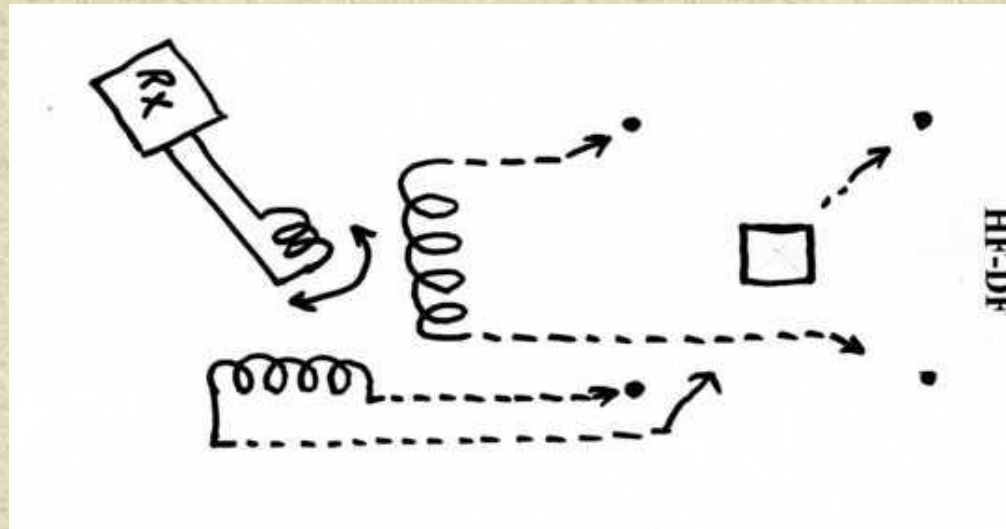


- ✦ **Manual Direction Finding in the field**
- ✦ **Direction Finding Operations**



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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- ✦ **Direction-Finding Equipment**
  - ◆ **HRO Receivers**
  - ◆ **Manual Radiogoniometer**
- ✦ **DF Procedures**
- ✦ **Disposition of messages and bearings**



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless



## Other Dept of Transport Monitoring Stations

**Hartlen Point, N. S.**

**Strathburn, SW Ontario**

**Forest (near Rivers), Manitoba**

**Point Grey (Vancouver), B. C.**

# Intercepting Enemy Wireless



**Naval Radio Station CFF Memorial Plaque**



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

NAVAL RADIO STATION CFF

1940-1947

**ON THIS SITE IN 1940 THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY OPERATED A HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO STATION WITH THE CALL SIGN CFF. THE STATION RECEIVED AND TRANSMITTED MESSAGES BETWEEN NAVAL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED AUTHORITIES, SHIPS AT SEA, AND FREQUENTLY INTERCEPTED ENEMY TRANSMISSIONS. THIS PLAQUE IS DEDICATED ON BEHALF OF ALL NAVAL VETERANS TO THOSE WHO SERVED HERE.**

**This is the inscription on the memorial plaque mounted on a large rock at the entrance to the Fletcher Wildflower Gardens, on the grounds of the Experimental Farm, south of the Arboretum, on the east side of the Prince of Wales Highway.**



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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- ✦ **I transferred to Yukon (North West Staging Route) - 1943**
- ✦ **Developments in radio intercept after VE Day**
  - ◆ **Kana Code**

# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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- ✦ **I transferred to Yukon (North West Staging Route) 1943**
- ✦ **Developments in radio intercept after VE Day**
  - ◆ **Kana Code**
  - ◆ **Point Grey, B.C.**
  - ◆ **WRENS**
  - ◆ **Lietrim**
  - ◆ **USN postwar report listed 40 DF stations by 1945.**
  - ◆ **There would have been 100's of monitoring stations**



# Intercepting Enemy Wireless

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## Further reading:

**On Ottawa Wireless Station -**

**<http://members.shaw.ca/va3oeb/intercept.htm>**

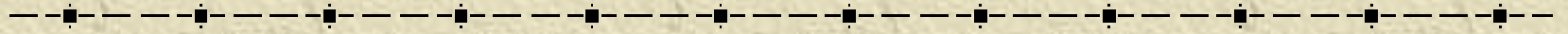
**On Canadian military signals intercept operations (WW II) -**

**<http://jproc.ca/rrp/leitrim.html>**

**On Bletchley Park, decryption and the Colossus computer -**

**<http://www.codesandciphers.org.uk/lorenz/colossus.htm>**

# Intercepting Enemy Wireless



**Thank You**

**Questions?**