

FLORIDA FIELD STATION

1 February 1946

The Florida Field Station was activated on 24 March 1943 at Clermont, Florida, as a field station of the Signal Corps Ground Signal Service. Its primary missions were to engage in field testing of newly developed radio and radar equipments and to demonstrate such equipments for the Army Air Forces Board. The station also assisted the Army Air Forces Board as required during its tests and rendered all information obtained to the development laboratories concerned to expedite the further development and production of the equipment.

The station continued as a Signal Corps installation until 1 February 1945, when its personnel, equipment and functions were transferred to the newly activated Watson Laboratories, Air Technical Service Command, Army Air Forces, with headquarters in Red Bank, New Jersey. This transfer was a part of a major revision in Army policy under which the Army Air Forces assumed entire responsibility for research, development, and procurement of equipment used by the Army Air Forces. Some of these Army Air Forces functions had been formerly performed by the Signal Corps. As an Army Air Forces installation the Florida Field Station, in addition to its work for the Army Air Forces Board, is now responsible for field engineering investigations and special studies relating to electronics equipment.

Certain special project personnel of the station occupied the Leesburg Army Air Field in April 1945 and by August 1945 the entire station was moved from Clermont, Florida, to Leesburg Army Air Field.

Originally activated with four officers and seventy-nine civilians, the station complement due to expanded activities has increased to eight officers and one hundred fifty-six civilians. The station is under military control and supervision, but is essentially a civilian organization with civilians performing all assigned phases of development and test work. The station missions are accomplished by a staff which includes professional engineers, engineering aides, radio mechanics, stenographers, typists, administrative assistants, motor mechanics, cabinet makers, machinists, guards, and firefighters. The station payroll to its civilians is well in excess of \$350,000 per year.