



The Code Talkers



Keeping military plans secret during World War II was a major problem because the enemy could intercept radio messages. The radios used for communication at the time were **portable** and operated like “Walkie-Talkies.” Many different kinds of codes to keep messages secret were devised but none of them were perfect. Eventually the enemy could break the code.

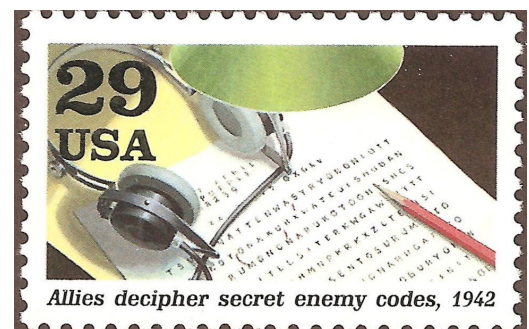
In 1942, the Marines realized that they could use the Navajo language as a secret code and send messages. Navajo was a “hidden language” as it had no written form, no alphabet, and there were many different ways of speaking it (dialects). Over 400 young Navajo men joined the Marines, and served with honor in the Pacific war against the Empire of Japan. In addition to being good fighters, they sent messages of vital importance in all the big battles, including Iwo Jima. The Japanese never were able to break the code and figure out the messages.

Photo # USMC 127-MN-57875 Toledo Cousins, Navajo Indian Code Talkers, July 1943



Write **T** for TRUE or **F** for FALSE

- ___ 1. Navajo men served in the Pacific war.
- ___ 2. The Navajo language was written down in books.
- ___ 3. The Japanese finally broke the code by the end of the war.
- ___ 4. The Navajo Code Talkers were used in World War I.
- ___ 5. The Navajo language has many dialects.
- ___ 6. Keeping battle plans secret during war is hard.
- ___ 7. Radios were used for communication between troops and those planning military actions during World War II.
- ___ 8. The word **portable** describes an item that is heavy and hard to carry or transport.



Statue above is in Window Rock, Arizona, seat of the government of the Navajo Nation.



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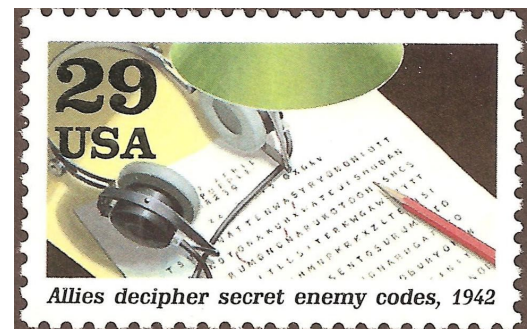
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