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given	of such	matter	This office has been advised that the work of
a pers	on empl	oyed by	the government, produced on government time, and
for wh	ich he	has beer	paid, cannot be copyrighted.
•			h 8, fR 310-10, with respect to the publication
			ry subjects by a member of the Army, active or
			t, "If the author offers the work to the War De-
its or	iginal	form. Di	oper recognition will be given to the individual.
Since	this pa	tagraph.	does not appear to apply to civilian personnel '
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- 2			cussion with The Adjutant General's office has igh it has never been stated in writing, the War
			ated the policy of granting no bylines or cre-
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other	article	for go	neral use throughout the army. This policy is members of that office have indicated that a
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3	With	respect	to the publication of articles of an unclassi-
Tied n	ature, ffice t	tne Bur	au of Public Relations has informally advised war Department employee may publish such writ-
ings i	h a tec	hnical	or trade journal, even when they have been writ-
ten on	govern	ment ti	me, provided that he first secures the permission
of the	chief	of his	gency and then submits the article to the Bureau
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if the	y have	been ac	complished as a government project and have been
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of giving recognition to scientific and technical personnel.

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Recognition of Authorship of War Department Technical Publications

With very rare exceptions, all War Department and U.S. Army publications are anonymous. No doubt from the very beginning it has been the unquestioned policy of the War Department and of the Army to show no indication of authorship on any documents of an official character written or produced within the military establishment and disseminated for the information, guidance, or training of its personnel. This policy has been and still is applicable to all publications, technical as well as purely administrative. The policy stems no doubt from the days when science and research in general did not play so prominent a part in warfare as it does today.

It is obvious that in the large majority of cases such a policy of anonymity of authorship can hardly be challenged. It is wise and necessary. However, in my opinion, the validity of the thesis of anonymity of authorship may be questioned in the case of purely technical documents and research papers on scientific subjects.

In the world of science, the incentive to do good research and to write good papers thereon originates in the natural craving for the approbation and esteem of one's colleagues and associates. It is hardly necessary to elaborate on this thesis and to indicate how important it is to scientists throughout the world. For the most part a man who has selected the pursuit of science as his life's work does not receive a large monetary reward. A large part of his recompense derives from an internal satisfaction in achievement; but by no means the minor part of his recompense derives from his knowledge that whatever he may write, if it be worthy of him and represents his best effort, will carry his name as author. Scientists, indeed, derive as much satisfaction from the fact that for decades in the future their writings will serve as memorials and testimonials to their having once lived on earth as do men who cause imposing mausoleums to be erected over their graves, to serve as memorials for the same purpose.

In the Government Service as a whole, with the notable and possibly only exceptions of the military and naval services, authorship of technical documents is usually indicated. This is true in the many scientific bureaus of the various executive departments, such as the Geological Survey, the Bureau of Standards, etc. Why should not purely technical documents and research papers which do not receive a general dissemination throughout the military establishment or which do not serve "for the guidance of all concerned" show authorship?

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When it comes to the matter of indicating authorship of patentable ideas (inventions, in other words), the War Department not only does but is required to have authorship shown. The laws governing inventions and patents are quite clear in this respect and the War Department does not appear to suffer any handicaps in the administration of its business by giving credit where credit is due in the case of patentable ideas. Moreover, AR 850-50 sets forth very clearly what the rights of the inventor and the rights of the Government are. However, when authorship involves a book, document, treatise, etc., the War Department follows a far different policy. It appears a bit inconsistent.

At the present time and under the present rule of anonymity. there is not and, it seems to me, there can not be the same incentive to do an excellent piece of exposition. where such a document is desirable. Excellent exposition requires careful thought, much labor, and the patience to write, re-write, and then revise -- sometimes to the extent of several revisions. Why should the anonymous author take many pains to do a firstclass job? He may, of course, receive a fleeting and not too important advantage in the form of some consideration when his superior is preparing an efficiency report. But this sort of recompense hardly fills the need for the very important sense of gratification which comes from the external recognition of a good piece of work and from the visible indication of authorship on the document. This is a more lasting sort of recompense to the real scholar and research man. An internal recognition and an inner sense of satisfaction is, in my opinion, not sufficient to spur most people to extend themselves, take the necessary pains, and to labor with words over and over again to get just the right phrase.

I think that a change in the present War Department policy would be conducive to more and better technical documents from more and better people at Army Security Agency. What steps would be necessary to bring about the necessary change? Is there any Army Regulation which lays down the policy and requires anonymity? I have searched but have not been able to find such a regulation. Has the policy been of such long-standing acceptance that it is among the "unwritten laws" of the service? If so, the change would perhaps not be so difficult to make and so far as concerns purely technical documents for use within the Army Security Agency might be sufficient.

Your comments on the foregoing are solicited.

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