

This programme was well under way and an extensive training programme was also in operation at the Bernard Price Institute, when it was ascertained that British made radar sets ordered during 1940 could be expected in 1942. It was decided to go ahead with the programme of J.B. sets, but it was also clear that vast expansion was needed to meet the heavy requirements of the British sets in technical and operational personnel. The Universities were providing sufficient engineers and physicists who could be trained as radar officers and training schemes at Howard College, in Cape Town and at the Bernard Price Institute were organised for this purpose. However, it was practically impossible to recruit operators other than C.s. rejects from the armed forces and it was consequently decided to employ women for this work and to set up a training school for operators temporarily at the Bernard Price Institute.

In the first months of 1942, vast expansion took place. Army huts were erected on and around the Bernard Price Institute, buildings and land were acquired in and near the major ports and recruiting of women commenced on a large scale.

Capt. (Mrs.) Schonland, Lt. (Mrs.) Hartshorne and Capt. (later Major) Miss Blue formed the nucleus of the S.S.S. W.A.A.S. organisation, and Capt Gilfillan and Major Austin were transferred in to help in the planning and installation of the total of forty-five radar stations planned.

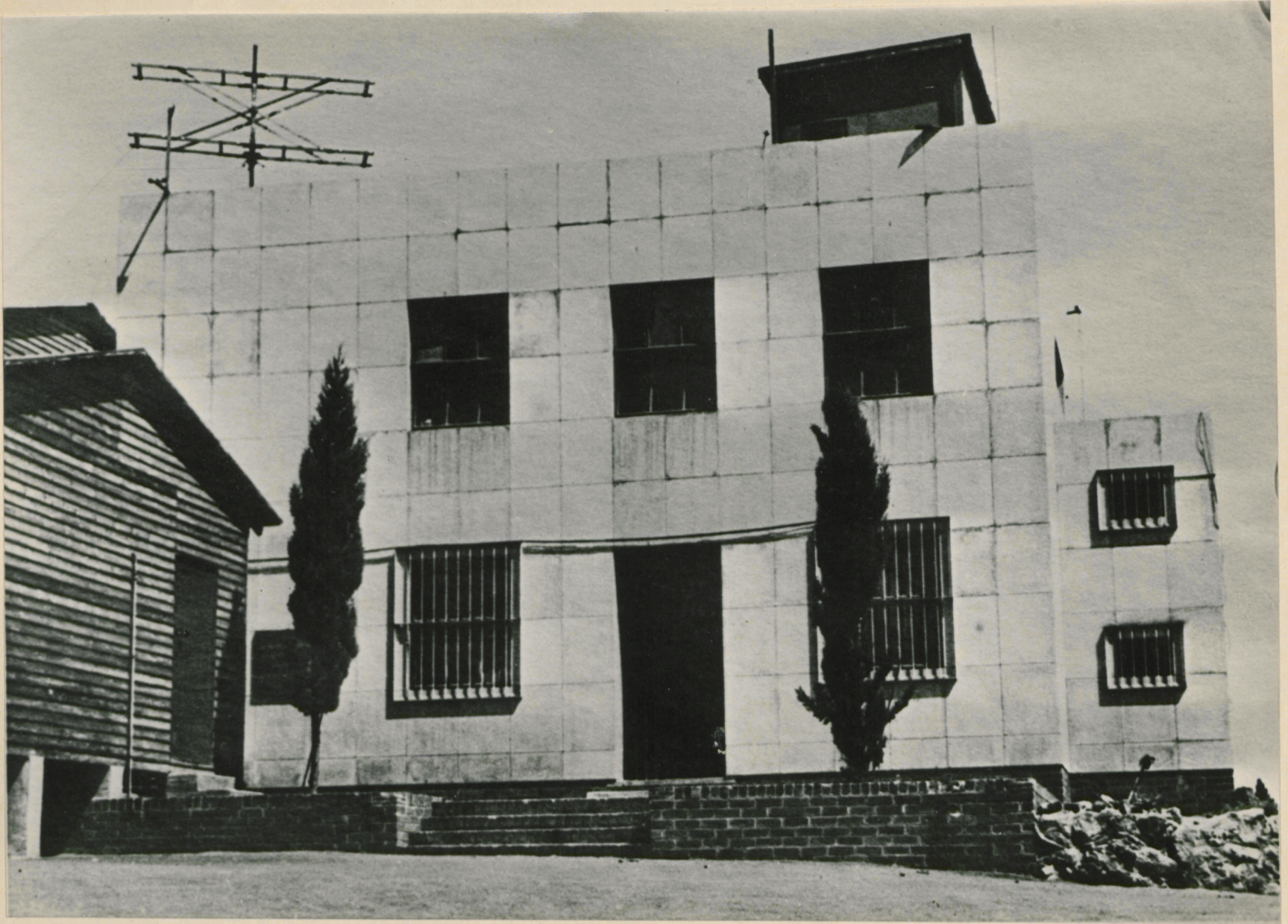
At the same time, the use of radar in military aircraft had spread to the South African Air Force and a special branch of the S.S.S., under Major P. G. Gane, was organised to be responsible for airborne radar. The photographs that follow were all taken during this period of feverish activity, the pace being accelerated by the knowledge that Japanese submarines were very active around the coast and that Japanese submarine borne aircraft had been detected already.



LT. (MRS) HARTSHORNE



MAJOR (MISS) BLUE.



W. A. A. S. UNDERGOING MORSE TRAINING.



MORSE TRAINING INSTRUCTOR AT THE CONTROL BOARD.



MR. W. PAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY STAFF, WHO ASSISTED GREATLY BY MAKING AVAILABLE THE MORSE TRAINING EQUIPMENT MADE BY HIMSELF, AND FOR ORGANISING THE MORSE TRAINING.

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