



# MISSION CHAMPIONS

## The Recruiters

***In 1946, the Dependents Schools Service (DSS)***

***was created under the command of Major Virgil R. Walker in Frankfurt, Germany. A similar office was established in Tokyo for the Far East Command (FEC) with the appointment of Major Herbert S. Ingraham in August 1946, as the School Liaison Officer.***

As a special staff agency of each theater headquarters, the DSS organizations were charged, independent from each other, with the planning and supervision of a school program for minor dependents in the respective occupied countries of Germany and Japan. A critical responsibility for each theater was staffing.



*Richard E. Meyering*



*Major Mary S. Bell*



*Arriving teachers at Bremerhaven, U.S. Army, are met by staff.*



Though teacher recruitment in the United States was necessary, the theaters were also a rich source of qualified teachers. The placement services of ten American universities and colleges were asked to assist in the recruiting drive by screening applicants and selecting the best candidates for interviews. For the Germany operation, these were interviewed by two DSS representatives – Mr. Richard E. Meyering and Major Mary S. Bell – who flew to the United States for the final selection. The names of the Far East recruiters are unknown.

***The recruiters had to work fast and traversed the United States in search of experienced educators who had “a pioneer spirit” and could work in bombed-out buildings or tents and with few books and supplies to begin with. They met the challenge as did their Far East Command counterparts. Teachers sailed from the East and West Coasts to Bremerhaven, Germany and Tokyo, Japan for the adventure of a lifetime.***

On August 23, 1946, the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* reported that the first five of approximately 300 teachers to be employed in Army Education Schools throughout Japan had arrived from the States. Six teachers arrived in Europe with one of the DSS recruiters in August, but the first major contingent did not reach Frankfurt until early in September. Many more followed in October.

Sources:

- *The Dependents' School Program of the U.S. Army, Europe, 1946-56, Historical Division, US Army, Europe 1958*
- *From Silver School Bells, USDESEA 1946-1971*