Preservation REF ID:A709

Dr. A. Sinkov Chief, Security Division 14 July 1949

Captain James I. Toner Custodian, Army Security Agency Inundation of Cryptographic Storage Room

At 2230 hours I received a call from Lt. O'Neal of the Pentagon . Guard Officer Telling me they had to gain admittance to Room 101032 because water was flowing from under the door. I told him not to force an entrance as I'd be over in about 15 minutes.

I arrived at 2250 hours accompanied by Captain Williams. Upon arrival I was confronted with the back double door broken off it's hinges, and about six inches of water in the corridor and our back room.

Approximately twenty men, with four machines were pumping water from the corridors. Lt. O'Neal entered the back room to try and locate the leak in the dark, as no lights had been turned on for fear of short circuits. Mater was flowing through the cieling from every hole and fixture outlet. I gained admittance thru our front door which has the three combination lock. I could reach as far as the first bay when about three inches of water stopped me. I threw the switch controlling the lights in the bays and water was everywhere and still coming down from the cieling in the rear. The two terminals were safe from overhead water and from my inspection no damage resulted unless the conduits in the base of the terminals got wet.

The defective value that controlled the water flowing through the three inch pipe was finally located around midnight. By 0230 hours the room was finally pumped dry of water.

The door that was forced open was replaced temporarily. The temporary door was barricaded from the inside and a guard was posted outside, with written instructions furnished to the Sergeant of the Guard. (see incl. 1) After checking the remaining rooms I pulled the master switch and left at 0300 hours. As no carpenters are available after working hours the Supt of the Pentagon arranged to have a carpenter for me at 0800 hours 15 July 1949 to replace the door.

From a casual inspection it is my opinion that the test equipment, spare racks, panels and terminal records all becoming saturated will take a week or longer sufficiently for the electricians to go to work on the cieling fixtures. It is also expected that sections of the cieling will crumble.

A more thorough inspection will be made at a later date Approved for Release by NSA on 06-02-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

Copy of Inst. given to Sgt. of the Guard

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JAMES I. TONER Ceptain, Signal Corps