

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

November 30, 1943

Mr. William F. Friedman
Chief Cryptanalyst
Signal Intelligence Service
War Department, Washington

Dear Mr. Friedman:

I am writing you on behalf of a close friend of mine, John Verrall, who is a member of our faculty and about to be inducted into the Army.

During the past year I have been giving him private lessons in cryptography and cryptanalysis and have found him an unusually able student. With me he has covered the following material:

Transposition ciphers	-	routes, grilles, columnar transposition
Substitution ciphers	-	Monoalphabetic, ditto with variants
		Polyalphabetic
		Vigenere, Gronsfeld, Porta, Beaufort
		Running keys
		Autoencipherment
		Encipherment by variable plain text units
		Encipherment by variable cipher text units
		Digraphic, false and true
		Tables
		Checkerboards
		Playfair
Superencipherment	-	Fractionating systems

Having a keen interest in this type of problem Verrall has worked tirelessly and with unusual success in the solution of these types of cipher. I have been particularly impressed with the amount of real understanding he has brought to the work. Several times I found him working out for himself techniques of attack new to me and thoroughly sound.

Verrall reports at Camp Devens on December the fifteenth. His identification number is 3 1 4 1 5 8 9 6. I am writing you to ask if anything can be done to get him assigned to cryptanalysis work after he has finished his basic training. I am certain that his greatest usefulness to the Army would be in this field.

Verrall is one of the best teachers on our faculty. If there are no openings in cryptanalysis itself, he would make an excellent teacher of the subject. He is already competent to teach the elementary course in the subject.

Ref ID: A70031

Of course I am writing this letter with no real knowledge of the situation in your part of the Service. It may be that you can do nothing for Verrall. But I did think that to let you know about him would be doing a favor both to you and to him. I have been told recently that the Air Force is in great need of teachers of cryptanalysis. If you cannot use Verrall would you be in a position to make him known to the Air Force intelligence group?

I am glad to be able to give Verrall a high recommendation. As a cryptanalyst he has all of the best qualities: patience, real understanding of fundamental principles, willingness to experiment, and unbounded enthusiasm for and absorption in the work. He is a person of the highest character: loyal, trustworthy, discrete. Anything you are able to do to assist him will be appreciated.

Faithfully yours,



Prof. Roger W. Holmes
3 Stanton Avenue
South Hadley, Mass

ARLINGTON HALL STATION

Date 2 Dec

TO

FROM

_____ Commanding Officer
 _____ Asst. Commandant
 ✓ _____ Dir. of Com. Research ✓
 _____ Executive Officer
 _____ Asst. Executive Officer
 _____ Adjutant
 _____ Asst. Adjutant
 _____ Chief, Headquarters Branch
 _____ Coordination Section
 _____ Inf. and Liaison Section
 _____ Chief, A Branch
 _____ Chief, B Branch
 _____ Chief, C Branch
 _____ Chief, D Branch
 _____ Chief, E Branch
 _____ Chief, F Branch
 _____ Dir. of Training
 ✓ _____ 2d Sig. Serv. Bn. (X)
 _____ Property Officer
 _____ Personnel Officer
 _____ Provost Marshal
 _____ Post Engineer
 _____ Classified Mail Room
 _____ Secretary to C. O.
 _____ General Files
 _____ 201 Files

_____ Comments and Return
 _____ Recommendations
 _____ Information
 _____ Information and Return
 _____ Inf. and Forwarding
 _____ Your Information and File
 _____ Signature, if approved
 _____ See Note on Back
 _____ As Requested
 _____ As Discussed
 _____ Your Action

I've known Holmes for a
 number of years. I don't
 know Verrell but he
 looks like a very good
 man. What can we do
 to get him in 2d Sig
 Serv Bn or to visit

Hill ? REF ID: A70031
~~please let~~

we know what to
reply.

J.

We cannot do anything
right now because of
overstrength. Probably
can do something later

CD.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Army Service Forces

SPSBS-3

11 December 1943

Professor Roger W. Holmes
3 Stanton Avenue
South Hadley, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Holmes:

I am sorry that a reply to your letter of November 30, could not be sent sooner.

It would appear that your friend Verrall would be an asset to us but unfortunately at the present moment, because the Second Signal Service Battalion is over-strength, we cannot do anything right now. It is, however, probable that something could be done a little later and I will ask the Adjutant of the unit to let me know just as soon as the over-strength status is terminated. I suggest that either you or Verrall keep me informed as to his whereabouts.

With cordial greetings, I am,

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman
Director of Communications
Research

Date _____

TO _____ FROM _____

- _____ Commanding Officer
- _____ Asst. Commandant
- _____ Dir. of Com. Research ✓
- _____ Executive Officer
- _____ Asst. Executive Officer
- _____ Adjutant
- _____ Asst. Adjutant
- _____ Chief, Headquarters Branch
- _____ Coordination Section
- _____ Inf. and Liaison Section
- _____ Chief, A Branch
- _____ Chief, B Branch
- _____ Chief, C Branch
- _____ Chief, D Branch
- _____ Chief, E Branch
- _____ Chief, F Branch
- _____ Dir. of Training
- ✓ 2d Sig. Serv. Bn. *(Capt. Cassin - Altie)*
- _____ Property Officer
- _____ Personnel Officer
- _____ Provost Marshal
- _____ Post Engineer
- _____ Classified Mail Room
- _____ Secretary to C. O.
- _____ General Files
- _____ 201 Files

- _____ Comments and Return
- _____ Recommendations
- _____ Information
- ✓ Information and Return
- _____ Inf. and Forwarding
- _____ Your Information and File
- _____ Signature, if approved
- _____ See Note on Back
- _____ As Requested
- _____ As Discussed
- _____ Your Action

*Phoned to mil Pers
 00290 13 Jan
 who will try to get
 him
 ex*

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Army Service Forces

SPSIS-3

11 January 1944

Professor Roger W. Holmes
3 Stanton Avenue
South Hadley, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Holmes:

During the latter part of November you wrote me concerning your friend Verrall. I wrote you on December 11th that because the Second Signal Service Battalion was over-strength we could not do anything at the time. I asked our people to keep me advised and they tell me now that the over-strength condition is adjusted and possibly something could be done for Verrall. What we need to know now is where he went from Camp Devens, giving his complete address. Upon receipt of this information I will see what action can be taken.

With cordial greetings for the New Year, I am,

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman
Director of Communications
Research

File

ARLINGTON HALL STATION

Date 14 Feb 44

TO

FROM

- Commanding Officer
- Asst. Commandant
- Dir. of Com. Research
- Executive Officer
- Asst. Executive Officer
- Adjutant
- Asst. Adjutant
- Chief, Headquarters Branch
- Coordination Section
- Inf. and Liaison Section
- Chief, A Branch
- Chief, B Branch
- Chief, C Branch
- Chief, D Branch
- Chief, E Branch
- Chief, F Branch
- Dir. of Training
- 2d Sig. Serv. Bn.
- Property Officer
- Personnel Officer
- Provost Marshal
- Post Engineer
- Classified Mail Room
- Secretary to C. O.
- General Files
- 201 Files
- Capt Cadorette*
- Comments and Return
- Recommendations
- Information
- Information and Return
- Inf. and Forwarding
- Your Information and File
- Signature, if approved
- See Note on Back
- As Requested
- As Discussed
- Your action

*This looks ok. He will go
to Crowder for Basic Training
thence to Vent Hill*

DD

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

William F. Friedman
Headquarters, Army Service Forces
Office of the Chief Signal Officer
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Thank you for your letter of
the 11th of January.

John Verrall is still at
Fort Devens, Massachusetts. His number is
31415896 and his address is Company A, R.C.

I appreciate the trouble you
have taken to help my friend Verrall and am
sure that if he can be placed in the Second
Signal Service Battalion his work will justify
the interest we have taken in him.

Faithfully yours,



Roger W. Holmes
3 Stanton Avenue
South Hadley, Mass.

Lt. dtd. Jan 22 from Holmes
 saying Verrall had been sent to
 QM camp after having interview with re
 to crypt work -

2012 ~~10/10/41~~

Verrall will
 come back after
 Basic Training

~~at~~
 Suspense to
~~Feb 15~~

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

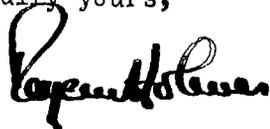
William F. Friedman
Chief Cryptanalyst
Office of the Chief Signal Officer
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

My friend Verrall has asked me to inform you that he has been transferred to Camp Crowder, Missouri. His specific address is: Company B, 27th Signal Training Battalion. Apparently he wants to be sure that you people know where he is at all times.

Please do not bother to reply to this letter.

Faithfully yours,



Roger W. Holmes
3 Stanton Avenue
South Hadley, Mass.

File

Holmes, Roger W.

Serial: 1322

19 MAR 1954

Mr. Roger W. Holmes
 3 Stanton Avenue
 South Hadley, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Holmes:

Your request for financial support of the course in cryptanalysis being conducted at Mount Holyoke College has been examined with a view toward possible assistance by this Agency. Unfortunately there are no funds available from which it would be possible to underwrite such assistance. Therefore, it is with regret that I must inform you that this Agency cannot lend any financial support to your program.

Sincerely,

L. D. Callimahos
 Chief of Staff

M/R: This reply is the result of discussion with Mr. Friedman (S/ASST), Dr. Kullback of R/D, Mr. Raven of PROD, and Mr. Sullivan of PERS.

L. D. Callimahos
 L. D. Callimahos, 60317
 TNG, mbf, 15 Mar 54

cc: AG
 C/S
 S/ASST (Friedman) ←
 PERS
 TNG

COPY

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
South Hadley, Massachusetts

Attention: Civilian Personnel

13 February 1954

Mr. James L. Kelley
Chief NSA Procurement
National Security Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Mr. C. H. Penland visited Mount Holyoke College this week and had kind things to say of the course in Military Cryptography and Cryptanalysis which I teach here. He has advised me to write you concerning the future of the course at this College.

A few weeks ago, just before leaving South Hadley for an extended trip to Europe, President Ham called me in to his office to suggest that I make inquiries into the possibility that the expense of this course be carried by government defense money.

The college, like all others, is having financial difficulties and finds it necessary to retrench wherever possible. Hence Mr. Ham has come to wonder seriously whether or not he can continue to find money for the course. His point is that the Government is helping the colleges in so many good ways to contribute to the defense effort that it ought to be willing to provide the small annual amount to keep this course going, five hundred dollars (\$500).

He wants very much to keep the course here because he knows how important it is to have a backlog of intelligent women trained in the skills of this work who can be called to Washington immediately in case of emergency. From my own work in World War II I know how badly they are needed and how quickly. We get at Mount Holyoke some of the ablest girls of each age group; and many of the best of these take the course. They take it either because they like this type of thing and are good at it, or because they are engaged to men who will be fighting if another war comes and they want to be of most value themselves. Both reasons are excellent.

I am sure I do not need to persuade you of these things. I should appreciate it if you would look into this matter. If you could find some source from which this amount could be paid Mount Holyoke College each year to keep the course going, President Ham and the College would be deeply appreciative.

Faithfully yours,

/s/ Roger W. Holmes

ROGER W. HOLMES

3 Stanton Avenue
South Hadley, Massachusetts

COPY