REF ID:A70112

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eol. Bidwell

Serial: 00724

8 NOV 1954

Colonel Bruce W. <u>Bidwell, USA</u> (Ret.) Office of the Chief of Military History Room 1D635, The Pentagon Department of the Army Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Colonel Bidwell:

Receipt of your letter of 2 November 1954 is acknowledged.

Some M

I concur with General Mauborgne in thinking that some mention of the collaboration with the British in the communication intelligence field would be warranted in your history of the Military Intelligence Division and I therefore enclose a brief statement pertaining thereto.

It may be that General Mauborgne "feared that the Havy was about to send over one of these machines and steal Army thunder" but this is certainly not in accordance with the account contained in the official ASA history, nor is it in accordance with my quite clear recollection of the events in question, gained from firsthand contact with them. Indeed, my recollection is that the Mavy was quite reluctant about the whole business of collaboration and had to be persuaded more or less to go into it. In any case, I think that part of the story of small consequence and I hope you will agree in the propriety of omitting questionable data of that sort.

Thank you for your information regarding Fabyan and his authorship. The situation is as I explained to you on the telsphone: he never wrote anything but letters; he had the writings of others copyrighted in his name.

May I reiterate that we would like very much to have a copy or two of your history when it is issued, these to be for our official library?

Sincerely,

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 03-27-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

WILLIAN F. FRIEDMAN Special Assistant

Incl:

li cc: AG

S/ASST (Mr. Friedman) M/R: Self-explanatory

SECRET.

Captain McDonald, USAF/60493/5Nov54/can

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Discussions between the Army and the Navy in regard to groptanalytic cooperation with the British began in the summer of 1940. and after detailed consideration of the matter the Director of Reval Communications and the Chief Signal Officer recommended to their respective superiors that a mission consisting of two officers from the Army Signal Intelligence organization and two from the Havy Communication Intelligence organization be sent to London to initiate collaboration. The recommendation was accepted and in January 1941 the mission left, taking with them two "Furple" mechines, data for employing them in reading the Japanese highest-level diplomatic traffic. and certain other material. (The Japanese "Purple" cryptosystem and machine had been solved by Army cryptanalysts headed by Mr. Friedman: this was a feat the British cryptanelysts had given up.) In exchange, the U.S. got from the British much valuable information in connection with German and Italian systems. Army and Mayy collaboration with the British began on an active basis soon thereafter and reached the point where in 1944 the two Services were in touch by radio. on a daily 24-hour basis, with the British organization. Agreements were entered into between the U.S. and the U.K. whereby the U.S. had primary responsibility for communication intelligence activities in the Pacific, the U.K. had similar responsibility in the Atlantic and in Europe. Results and technical data were exchanged freely, under certain strict controls.

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2 November 1954

Mr. William A. Friedman National Security Agency Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Tiles 1

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the very kind comments you recently made in connection with the Code and Cipher chapter of my draft MID History covering the peacetime years (1919-1941). They are already proving to be most helpful in my current final revision task. May I ask your further indulgence in order to clear up another point?

The following statement was contained in General Mauborgne's letter of comment:

"I suggest that one or more paragraphs be inserted in the present text to cover the fact that I persuaded Secretary Stimson to let the Army send one of the Army-designed Japanese diplomatic code-breaking machines to the British High Command in London together with certain experts to demonstrate the use thereof, since we feared that the Navy was about to send over one of these machines and steal Army thunder. Mr. Friedman can give the entire story and state just what we got from the British in return -- a most important swap worth recording on the pages of history."

I agree with General Mauborgne that this exchange should be mentioned and hope that you may see fit to fill out the gap for me, including the time element.

Incidently, Mr. Fabyan did publish two books in regard to his Bacon decipherment effort. They are presently very difficult to locate but I secured both of them through the Department of the Army inter-library loan service. I only made full note of one of them, however, as follows:

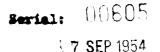
George Fabyan, <u>The Keys for Deciphering the Greatest Work of Sir</u> <u>Francis Bacon</u> (Geneva, Ill. 1916).

Sincerely yours

uce W. Gidwell

BRUCE W. BIDWELL Colonel U.S.A. Ret.

REF ID:A70113



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Major General A.C. Smith, USA Office of the Chief of Military History Department of the Army Mashington 25, D. C.

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Dear Sir:

The draft of a "History of the Military Intelligence Division, Department of the Army General Staff," has been reviewed by Mr. William F. Friedman of this Agency. He has indicated a few amandments in pencilled notes on the manuscript, and adds the comment that, though very brief, the history does cover what he regards as the meet important features and developments of the period 1919-1941.

In case there is need to consult him further in this connection Mr. Friedman will be glad to confer with Gelenel Bidwell. He can be reached on Extension 60493.

Sincerely,

🔊 F.H. FRES'

L. H. FROST Rear Admiral, U. S. Mavy Chief of Staff

Incl: Ms

cc: AG C/8 S/ASST (Mr. Friedman)

M/R: Manuscript "History of the Nilitary Intel. Div., Dept of the Army General Staff" forwarded to Mr. Friedman for his comments because of his familiarity with the subject. Herewith comments and return of Ms.

Capt McDpnald, USAF/60493/15Sept54/can



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OFFICE OF THE CHILL OF THEITARY HISTORY WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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2 3 AUG 1954

Director, National Security Agency Washington 25, D. C. ATTN: Mr. William F. Friedman

Dear Sir:

Inclosed herewith are draft copies of two sections (Initial Readjustment, pp. 1-30; Codes and Ciphers, pp. 136-159) of a "History of the Military Intelligence Division, Department of the Army General Staff," covering the period 1919-1941, prepared by Col. Bruce W. Bidwell, Infantry, U.S.A.

Your comments, both general and specific, concerning the material contained in these documents are requested in order that the subject may be developed in the most comprehensive and accurate manner possible. In spite of the fact that careful attention has been given to research in original reports, it is realized that there are gaps in the story. Because of your familiarity with the subject it is believed that you can make a substantial contribution to this important work. When completed it will fill a void now existing in American military history.

A self addressed envelope is inclosed for the roturn of the document with your comments.

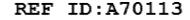
Sincerely,

C. SMITH

Major General, USA Chief, Military Sigtory

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2. Return envelope





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Extract from "History of the Military Intelligence Division, Department of the Army General Staff," covering the period 1919-1941, prepared by Col. Bruce W. Bidwell, Infantry, USA*

Early in July 1940, when it first became apparent that President Roosevelt intended to appoint Mr. Stimson to be the new Secretary of War, both Brig Gen Sherman Miles, ACofS, G-2, and Maj Gen Joseph O. Mauborgne, Chief Signal Officer, were exceedingly apprehensive that this action might cause a serious curtailment in the rapidly developing Army communications intelligence effort. General Mauborgne, therefore, proceeded to visit the White House in order to discuss this matter with Maj Gen Edwin M. Watson, the Military Aide. As a result, it was indicated that the President desired the Army to continue with this effort and the War Department received instructions "not to let Secretary Stimson know that this was being done." See: Memo, Edward A. Tamm to Director, 5 Jul 40, File 62-9798-88, Records of FBI, Washington, D. C.

*Sent for review in ltr 23 Aug 54 by Maj Gen A.C. Smith, Chief, Military History to Director, NSA, Attn: Mr. William F. Friedman

