

18 Jul 58

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBJECT. "German Military Ciphers from February to November 1918"

1 By letter, dtd 16 May 58, Mr William G Bryan, Editor and Publisher of The Cryptogram, official magazine of the American Cryptogram Association, Greenfield, Massachusetts, informed me that a member of the Association had turned in a book review of "German Military Ciphers from February to November 1918 " Mr. Bryan wished to receive verification that this document had been declassified He informed that it could be obtained in book form from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan

2 The Chief of Staff, NSA, informed Mr. Bryan by return letter of the provisions of the Department of Defense Directive 5200 1, dtd 8 Jul 57, as applied to all material related to Cryptographic Systems Mr Bryan was advised that no authorization for publication of the material could be granted

3 Subsequently, Mr Bryan brought up the matter again. In a letter to V R Arnett, Captain, AGC, Assistant Adjutant General, ASA, Arlington Hall Station, dtd 2 Jun 58, Mr Bryan mentioned that a member of the American Cryptogram Association had reviewed the captioned document for publication This member purportedly stated that the material had been declassified by ASA and the Library of Congress Mr Bryan informed that the member had a micro-film made of the paper which was turned over to University Microfilms who were converting the film into a paper-bound book to be made available to the general public

4 On 12 Jul 58, Mr Bryan wrote the Chief of Staff, NSA, informing he had learned that a microfilm copy of the document had been converted into a full-size paper-bound book by University Microfilms. This book, he said, is being offered to the general public for \$3 40 per copy

5 On 10 Jul 58, Colonel Willard, AG, NSA, requested that I have a check made of the statements about this paper being reproduced and published as a book by University Microfilms

6 Personnel of this Office have examined a copy of the document, "German Military Ciphers from February to November 1918." It is a technical paper, written originally in 1919 by First Lieutenant J R Childs, produced by the Signal Intelligence Section, War Plans and Training Division, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department The

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document was printed under the classification Confidential by the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., in 1935. At that time it contained a foreward written on 25 Jun 34 by William F Friedman, then Cryptanalyst, Chief of Signal Intelligence. On 1 Apr 46, the document was regraded to Restricted. Under provisions of Department of Defense Directive 5200 I, the proper present classification is Confidential. The NSA copy of the document contains no indication that it has ever been in the public domain.

7 Contact with CREF failed to disclose any information on the publication or proposed publication of this document in book form. The Agency does have business dealings with University Microfilms, Inc., 313 N First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the purchase of microfilms. CREF personnel could find no information to indicate that University Microfilms has published anything but microfilms.

8 On 17 Jul 58, Mr Robert Greene of this Office made inquiries at the Library of Congress relative to this matter. Library records disclosed that one unclassified copy of the 1935 printing of the document was received on inter-governmental transfer on 3 Nov 55. It is listed in the general catalogue of the library. No information concerning the declassification could be located. The document, itself, was found to be missing from the shelves and special search was requested. Library personnel informed that anyone willing to pay the cost could have had the document microfilmed in its entirety by the Library of Congress.

9 A cursory examination was made of the card catalogue at the Library of Congress. Under the topic of Cryptography there are approximately 135 cards. There are about 1,000 cards under the topic of ciphers and telegraphic codes. These cards run the gamut of ciphers in fiction, history of cryptography, commercial and telegraphic codes, military codes and ciphers and cards on the subject in foreign languages. It is suggested that the NSA Library obtain copies of these cards for review by PROD personnel to determine if the Library of Congress has any other publications which should be made unavailable for uncontrolled publication.

10 Government Printing Office records located in the Archives by Mr Ronald Kaufman of this Office disclosed that under War Department Requisition No 42626, 216 copies of the document titled, "German Military Ciphers," were printed and delivered on 24 April 35 under the classification Confidential. No information revealing subsequent printing or declassification was obtained. Efforts are continuing to ascertain the distribution, if any, beyond the War Department. The Government Printing Office did not retain any copies.

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11 I plan to send Arthur Mathisen of this Office to contact University Microfilms, Inc at Ann Arbor, Michigan in the event you deem it advisable to pursue this matter further. The purpose of his trip will be to ascertain whether this document has been published in book form and the source from which the material was obtained. He will also inform University Microfilms of the current classification of the material.

12 Colonel Willard advised on 18 Jul 58 that as a result of further discussion of this subject it has been decided to present the matter to the Department of Defense Review Board. If further information is developed through our inquiries at the Library of Congress and the Government Printing Office, I shall bring it to your attention promptly.

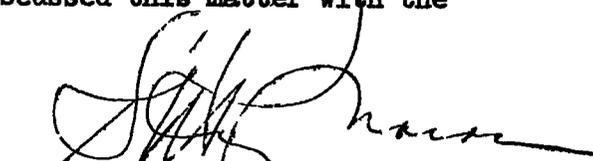


S. WESLEY REYNOLDS
Director of Security

18 July 1958

ADDENDUM

It has been decided to delay Mr. Mathisen's trip to Ann Arbor, Michigan, until Colonel Willard has discussed this matter with the Department of Defense Review Board.



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