SUBJECT:



AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH BUILDING

195 BROADWAY

JOHN J CARTY CHIEF ENGINEER

BANCROFT GHERARDI ENGINEER OF PLANT

KARL W WATERSON ENGINEER OF TRAFFIC NEW YORK March 27, 1919.

Lt. Col. J. O. Mauborgne, S. C., U.S.A.,

Office of the Chief Signal Officer,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Colonel Mauborgne:

For your further information in connection with our ciphering system and Colonel Fabyan's efforts to break it, I am enclosing herewith a copy of his letter to me of March 22 and my reply of the 27th. I do not know whether Colonel Fabyan is fooling himself or has tried to fool us.

Yours sincerely,

Acting Chief Engineer.

Enclosure:

Photostat Copy of letter from Colonel Fabyan to Mr. Gherardi, dated March 22.

Copy of letter to Colonel Fabyan from Mr. Gherardi, dated March 27.

BG-GJ

March 27, 1919.

Colonel George Fabyan,

Riverbank.

Geneva, Ill.

My dear Colonel Fabyan:

I have your letter of March 22 with reference to our ciphering machine and note that you have, with a few minor errors, deciphered message No. 2. I have no doubt you have also deciphered No. 3. If you will reread my letter to you of June 11, a copy of which I attach for your convenience, you will note in it the following statements:

"I am not a cipher expert and would not presume to say what can and cannot be done, but should you and Professor Friedman decipher messages Nos.1, 5, 6 and 7, I shall feel that I owe you both a good dinner. I have no doubt that you can decipher Nos. 2, 3, and perhaps 4. These, however, as you understand are not the arrangement which we propose."

The messages which you have deciphered are Nos. 2 and 3 which I stated I had no doubt you could decipher, but which were not the arrangement which we propose. When you have deciphered Nos. 1, 5, 6 or 7, something will have been accomplished in breaking the system in question. I shall be glad to know whether any progress has been made in deciphering messages Nos. 1, 5, 6 and 7.

REF ID:A4148932

Colonel Fabyan.

-2-

With best regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Attached:

Photostat Copy of Letter to Colonel Fabyan from Mr. Gherardi, dated June 11, 1918.

BG-GJ

REF ID:A41489

Bliss Subyan & Co.

P.C. Box 435

Thirty Parch 22, 1919.

My dear Mr. Gherardi:

I went to your office lest May and had the pleasure of seeing a very clever cipher machine and with the confidence borne of past experience, conceit and egotism, I gave an off-hand opinion that the work so enciphered could be deciphered and I remember the pitying looks I received from these present.

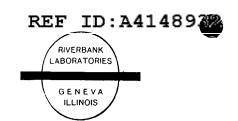
Many things have happened since then. My working staff was taken over by the Covernment and we had a great deal of work to do beside.

I now want to say that the machine is damn clever and I have a great respect for the brains which thought it out but I am still of the opinion that the cipher is breakable, although it has cost me several thousand dollars to confirm my off-hand opinion expressed in your office when you handed me the attached message.

With cordial, personal regards

Sincerely yours,

To Mr. Bancroft Gherardi, Engineer of Plant, American Telephone and Telegraph Co., 195 Broadway, New York, N.Y. Govt. File 1682.



COPY OF ONE OF THE TEST MESSAGES ENCIPHERED BY THE CIPHER PRINTING TELEGRAPH MACHINE ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBMITTED TO RIVERBANK BY THE AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS DECIPHERENT.

LC2XH 5AFMI RT3IO SP5VT TUJ54 4NJ6X 73CHI HLS3K H76TO DaPPP PPJPJ 2GZ7J JJS6Q OPG36 EEK 2E UNPZ3 LERYX 44,UUB 43 IPA UTT6B SOR7D 2PRAC UHGJS HJTXPYBILF DJGAJ GF7GR BG6NO SYABQ ZUD4Q CYOJP YB4RU AILDS 7 RY511 56U0P NDJZ4 6TURV X647E 5R03F **FWINZ** UIA5J 22N76 NAZZZGJKKJSZL5H APYAN KCXTH HZ3YN G7QEX GJLR3 YGWSF VSKD7 RYCJ5 LWBM2 QCFBP DCBCZ LKGPZ NSNVY KOTK2 WAIYCK 6VJDP EGXVF BCFB5 A5QSR BA3FL KFGVX OULQ.6 V2LVA VF47L1 6DJQT K700L $\mathtt{ADDa}Z$ WDPTX YACAX JEL7G 6JXX5 FIM5I 0...6Z.A KYQ53 RNN F7 PBIQB CUNGN LEYSY 263VR PKWJW 6DSYE FWOY4 K55NK LK6EN GRYS2 YONAH QFL5H DX3GW 6BJK7 NBAVO $M \cup DKZ$ RVCDQ EOJSP R2YIS J2ZGH BSHB5 SLFXQ 4RYPL 62IDF PH65E UFIFI GQNSB YVMMX 6NOBF KC4B7 SEG3J OHPYC 6WHZH BGOIB 6GZ5D 2Y3EQ MWOFP 73L37 NACGP 2T40G NLR

TRANSLATION

BRIGADIER GENERAL BROWN 50 TRANSPORT LEVIATHAN IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT CALAIS SATURDAY APRIL 2 WITH DIVISIONS 305 249 AND 467 AERIAL SQUADRONS 11 12 AND 13 ZIGNAL BATTALIONS 25 26 AND 27 ARTILLERY SECTIONS 40 41 AND 42 HOSPITAL SECTIONS 49 TO 91 INCLUSIVE ALL OF THE ABOVE UNITS ARE TO ENTRAIN AT ONCE AND PROCEED TO AMIENS UNDER YOUR CHARGE AT ALIENS DETRAIN AT DEPOT NO TWO AND MARCH TO CALP NO SIX TEN MILES EAST OF THE CITY PROPER THERE ENCALP AND REPORT YOUR ARRIVAL AT ONCE TO HEAD WARTERS