

~~Serial~~

22 APR 1952

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~  
~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~TOP SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

[Redacted]

OGA

R & A Officer, CIA/AFSA  
Room 1011-B  
Arlington Hall Station  
Arlington, Virginia

Dear [Redacted]

Reference is made to your memorandum, subject: Secret Inks Bureau MI-8, dated 31 March 1952. All sources available to this Agency have been examined with a view to locating documents having a bearing on the subject. The material which is forwarded herewith is all that has been found. It is doubtful that a "complete official record of this Secret Inks Bureau" exists anywhere or was even made. The only possible sources not searched by this Agency are the World War I files of the Military Intelligence Division, War Department, Washington, D. C.

The material being furnished you may be retained permanently.

Sincerely,

/s/

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN  
Consultant

3 Incls:

- 1. Extracts dtd 25 May 45 and 30 Jun 1919.
- 2. Secret Ink Data (58 pages)
- 3. Objects of the Parcels Post Censorship (2 pages)

W.F.Friedman/eby/22 Apr 52  
Consultant/Ext. 60493

Consultant - Combrode Copy

~~TOP SECRET~~

# MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NEVER USE FOR APPROVAL, DISAPPROVAL, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

1	NAME OR TITLE <i>Adm. Wenger</i>	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE	COORDINATION
2	<i>oot</i>		FILE
	<i>Let CIA have</i>		INFORMATION
3	<i>what is available.</i>		NECESSARY ACTION
	<i>[Redacted]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	NOTE AND RETURN
	<i>[Redacted]</i>	<i>4/7</i>	SEE ME
	<i>[Redacted]</i>	OGA	SIGNATURE

### REMARKS

1. We have very little on this but could give them what we have.
2. Feeney (AFSA - <sup>203</sup>~~021~~) says that CIA wants everything we have but is very non-cooperative in letting us have anything on this subject or even letting anybody from AFSA into their secret ink lab.
3. What shall I do in re TP1

RETURN TO OOT

FROM NAME OR TITLE <i>Fredman</i>	DATE <i>3 Apr 52</i>
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	TELEPHONE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. W. F. Friedman, Consultant,  
AFSA-00-T  
FROM : R & A Officer, CIA/AFSA, Room 1011-B, AHS  
SUBJECT: Secret Inks Bureau of MI-8

DATE: 31 March 1952

1. This office has received a requirement from the Technical Support Staff, SAD/CIA, for detailed information regarding the Secret Inks Bureau of MI-8 during World War I. Available references, such as Yardley's "American Black Chamber" and "War Department Annual Reports, 1919," Volume I, Part 1, page 329 have been consulted.

2. We would appreciate receiving information on the location of the complete official record of this Secret Inks Bureau, and any procedures necessary to get permission to inspect the record.

OGA



*Consultant*

# MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, SIGNATURES, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

1	NAME OR TITLE <b>Capt. Dyer</b>	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <b>Chief, AFSA-14</b>	DATE	COORDINATION
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

Forwarded herewith is a photostat copy of "Secret Ink Data", for your retention.

OGA

*Attach to ltr to*



FROM NAME OR TITLE

DATE  
*16 Apr 52*

ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION

TELEPHONE

~~SECRET~~

Extract from

"The Achievements of the Cipher Bureau (MI-8)  
During the First World War:  
Documents by Major Herbert O. Yardley"

Dated 25 May 1945

"Secret Inks.

"That the enemy was using secret inks for some of his communications was known in a general way from a very early date. The first actual case that came to attention, however, seems to have been that of a letter written with invisible ink in Modern Greek and brought across the Mexican border in the shoe of an illiterate woman. This was developed by simple processes in M. I. 8 but many suspicious documents did not yield to treatment. Information of a general nature was obtained from the British and the French concerning German technique in this field, and after much correspondence M. I. 8 was put in possession of all the knowledge of our allies in these three ways:

(a) By a voluminous report transmitted through Captain J. A. Powell, who was sent abroad in December 1917 to establish liaison with our allies in all matters of this general nature.

(b) By the visit to America at the expense of M. I. D. of Mr. S. W. Collins, one of the best of the British experts in the detection of secret inks.

(c) By the visit of Captain Emmett K. Carver of M. I. 8 to Great Britain and France for study in the laboratories there.

"Correspondence and other preliminaries delayed for a painfully long time the establishment of a laboratory in M. I. 8. This did not actually take place until the removal to 1330 F Street in July, 1918. The laboratory was, however, at this date able to function immediately in highest efficiency. Its record under Captain Carver - and in his absence, under Lt. A. J. McGrail<sup>19</sup> - is one of thorough equipment for any problem in its field and of great usefulness. On an average over 2000 letters per week were examined from July 1, 1918 to February 1, 1919."

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<sup>19</sup> Lieutenant Colonel A. J. McGrail was the only member of MI-8 in Washington who later also was a member of the Signal Security Agency in the Second World War. From 1941 until his death on 30 April 1945 Colonel McGrail was in charge of all work involving secret ink and photography."

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Extract from

"Brief Outline of Work Covered by M. I. 8  
for the Year Ending June 30, 1919"

Dated June 30, 1919

"B.- That the enemy was using secret inks for some of its communications was known in a general way from a very early date. The first actual case that came to attention, however, seems to have been that of a letter written with invisible ink in Modern Greek and brought across the Mexican border in the shoe of an illiterate woman. This was developed by simple processes in M. I. 8, but many suspicious documents did not yield to treatment. Information of a general nature was obtained from the British and French concerning German technique in this field, and after much correspondence direct liaison was established with our allies. This resulted in the creation of the Secret Ink Bureau which discovered some fifty important secret ink spy letters that led to many arrests. The German spy activities revealed in these letters ranged from the establishment of submarine bases to the destruction of munition factories. An average of over 2000 letters per week were examined until the lifting of the censorship."

~~SECRET~~