July 8, 1949

Mr. William F. Friedman
424 No. George Mason Dr.
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Your letter received but unfortunately I am on the eve of going away for a period of two weeks. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of turning the matter over to Herb Maas.

Best regards,

Sincerely,  

[Signature]

[Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 03-21-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526]
Mr. Walter J. Fried
160 Broadway
New York, New York

Dear Walter:

I am writing to ask that you do us a bit of a favor in the way of some rather simple sleuthing.

The newspapers and motion pictures have been carrying stories about Hitler's yacht, the Grille, which was bought recently by a man named George Arida. He has brought the ship to New York, where it is on exhibition and I imagine there is some admission charge which goes to charity.

A recent article in the magazine Science Illustrated, I think, carried a picture of the interior of the communications room of the yacht and there are E machines to be seen, maybe also a Fish. The caption referred to "a dozen coding machines."

Could you make a visit and let me know what you see or can discreetly find out about what gadgets are still aboard, of interest to us?

Would appreciate early reply, if practicable.

I hope this terrific weather is not too difficult for you and your family. When are you coming this way again? It would be nice to see you.

Many thanks and best regards.

Sincerely yours,
424 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia
6 April 1949

Mr. Walter J. Fried
Riegelman, Strasser, Schwarz
& Spiegelberg
160 Broadway
New York 7, New York

Dear Walter:

Just a few lines to tell you that I looked up the references you cited and found considerable of interest therein. The page reference 752 in 43 Col. L. R. apparently is in error and I do not know what it should be. However, there is a rather interesting article beginning on page 603 in that volume.

It was awfully nice to see you and Mrs. Fried last Saturday night and we had an excellent time as your guests. I hope that next time you come you will both be our guests. Just let me know a day or two in advance.

Sincerely yours,

5

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
424 N. George Mason Drive  
Arlington, Virginia  
23 March 1949

Mr. Walter J. Fried  
Riegelman, Strasser, Schwarz  
& Spiegelberg  
160 Broadway  
New York 7, New York

Dear Walter,

Thank you very much for your letter of 21 March and for the citations contained therein. I will have somebody get them for me.

My latest information with respect to the date of arrival of Brigadier Tiltman is that he is due in Washington on the 29th of March. When I got back to the office after our luncheon I called the local office explaining what you had in mind and the secretary of Pat Marr-Johnson said she would send a "signal" to Tiltman. I didn't hear anything further from her and didn't understand why she did not let me know the result thereof, but this morning I found out from Marr-Johnson that Tiltman had received the message and had indicated acceptance.

We shall look forward to joining you and Mrs. Fried for dinner on 2 April and think that the Tiltmans will be there too.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
March 21, 1949

Mr. William F. Friedman
424 No. George Mason Drive
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

You may remember that at luncheon a couple of weeks ago I mentioned my impression that there was a doctrine which the courts had enunciated which condemned overreaching where contracting parties are of unequal bargaining power. I asked one of our men here to find some authorities on this, and he has referred me to the following:

- Symposium on Compulsory Contracts, 43 Col. L.R. 569, 752

- Economic Duress, 45 Mich. L.R. 253

- Holden v. Hardy, 169 U. S. 366, 397

I am looking forward to seeing you the weekend after next. Don't forget to try to get the Tilmans to join us if they are in town.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

WJF:K
DEAR WALTER:

I WAS VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTER OF 9 SEPTEMBER. YESTERDAY THE YULE BOOK ARRIVED AND I AM VERY MUCH INDEBTED TO YOU. I HOPE YOU ARE KEEPING A RECORD OF PURCHASES FOR MY ACCOUNT. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS LAST WORK OF YULE'S, I THINK I TOLD YOU THAT I RAN ACROSS IT IN OUR OWN LIBRARY AND HAVE THUMBLED THROUGH ITS PAGES. KULLBACK TELLS ME THAT IT IS NOT A GOOD PIECE OF WORK AND I AM RESERVING JUDGMENT UNTIL LATER, AFTER I HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO DIP INTO IT MORE CAREFULLY.

I DIDN'T THINK THAT YOU WOULD BE SCARED OFF BY A LITTLE BIT OF COLD WEATHER AS FAR AS GOLF IS CONCERNED. AN OLD MAN LIKE MYSELF PLAYS IN THE WINTER MONTHS. I HAVE PLAYED IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY AROUND HERE.

I THINK THE JOYWICH GROUP WILL STILL BE WORKING WHEN YOU GET BACK. WE SUSPENDED OPERATIONS DURING THE SUMMER AND I HAVE NOT YET RECONVENE THE GROUP, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF IBM DATA NOW AVAILABLE. HERewith I EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YOU TO JOIN THE GROUP ON YOUR RETURN WHICH OUGHT NOT TO BE TOO FAR OFF. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAVE BEEN KEPT IN THE DARK AS TO YOUR RELIEF. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT I PREPARED FOR THE CHIEF'S SIGNATURE A COUPLE OF LETTERS IN WHICH SOME MENTION OR OTHER WAS MADE, AND THESE LETTERS WERE ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO YOU. SMALL HAS BEEN SET UP FOR THE JOB AND IS GOING THROUGH THE MECHANICS OF GETTING READY. HOW MUCH OF AN OVERLAP THERE WILL BE, I DO NOT KNOW. I CAN IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE INFORMATION.

THE DATA WHICH YOU ARE SENDING US CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTING AND I READ PRETTY NEARLY EVERYTHING THAT COMES THROUGH. SOME OF IT I UNDERSTAND. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

WITH VERY BEST REGARDS, I AM

SINCERELY YOURS,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN.
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|------------------|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|

If he writes to frame any

As discussed
As requested
Comments and return
Information and file
Information and forwarding
Information and return
Recommendation
See note on reverse
Signature if approved
Your action

Why the secrecy? 
SIS SC Form No. 96 (Rev)
23 August 1944
Dear Mr. Friedman,

Sent you, a few days ago, (through channels) a new book by Yule which you may find interesting. I only glanced at it and the best I can say is that it seems less dull than the Biometrika article.

Have played golf a total of three times and I guess I’m through for the season. It’s already much too cold for me — about like our November weather.

The Vaynich group sounds most interesting and I’d like very much to join it when I return — except that I’m sure all problems will be solved by then. Your conjecture, made over a month ago, that I will have had some work about a replacement, has not yet proved true except for vague and conflicting rumors. Apparently policy (or security) demands that I be kept in official ignorance. The rumor is that there’s to be a lag of two months between the arrival of my replacement and my return.

Don’t pay too much attention to the foregoing gripe. I’m still enjoying the people and the work as much as ever and feel that it has been and continues to be a wonderful experience and opportunity. I only hope that my natural impatience to learn something about my plans hasn’t resulted in any lack of enthusiasm which can be detected in any of the stuff I’ve been sending back. I do believe, however, quite apart from my personal feelings, that I should be advised how much longer I likely to be here as my activities, in many respects, will depend on how much time I have left — also on whether or not it’s true that one of the problems here is going to be intensively studied by my replacement.

Best regards to you and Mrs. Friedman,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
13 September 44.

Captain Walter J. Fried,
Liaison Officer;
GO & CS,

Dear Captain Fried:

One of the things which we will be wanting when you get back here will be a more or less detailed report on the history, present organization, work, and achievements of GC & CS. We do not have up-to-date data nor has the account ever been set down in as detailed form as I think we should have it. We would like to cover such items as the manner in which the whole of GC & CS is set up, the different branches, the coordinating agencies, the intercept and direction finding stations, the facilities for getting the traffic back, the organization of Bletchley Park, of Berkeley Street, of Alford House, the cryptographic production and security organizations, key personnel, relations with ministries and the Joint Chiefs of Staff organization, and any other items that you think might be useful in a detailed story. With this end in view, I suggest that you make copious notes which could be brought back or sent back. You will probably be unable to cover much, if anything, of the naval side of the show, but on the latter we probably can get material from our Navy here; in fact, they have a rather good account which was written a couple of years ago, and which they will probably bring up to date. I realize that this is quite an assignment, but do the best you can in the spare time you can make available.

As you know a number of our people have been to BP and BS from AH, and their reports are available, but as time passes changes are made due to the development of new ideas or a change in the procedures and habits of the enemy. Consequently, there are probably many new things of interest that are not available here. I do not believe it advisable to make an externally apparent effort to collect the data or to bother the people in the organization too much. Already some of our people have made detailed inquiries on some subjects and should that be frequently repeated it might well be annoying. Better results can probably be obtained by merely getting a thorough understanding of the organization in your normal work.

Mr. Small is anxious to get underway, and I think he should in a couple of weeks.

Sincerely yours,

W. Preston Gorderman,
Colonel, Signal Corps
DEAR WALTER:

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR NICE LETTER OF 13 JULY. I DELAYED REPLYING TO IT BECAUSE I WAS AWAITING THE RECEIPT OF THE EWING BOOK AND THE REPRINT OF THE BIOMETRIKA ARTICLE. BOTH OF THESE ARRIVED JUST THIS MORNING AND I HASTEN TO THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY AND TO ASK YOU TO KEEP A MEMO AS TO WHAT YOU SPENT FOR THEM, SO THAT I MAY REPAY YOU WHEN YOU RETURN.

I HAD A LETTER RECENTLY FROM COMMANDER DENNISTON IN WHICH HE TELLS ME THAT HE GOT FROM YOU A FIRST-CLASS LESSON IN GOLF AND THAT YOU ARE "AN IMPRESSIVE PLAYER". HE ALSO THANKED ME FOR THE THREE BALLS WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO CARRY OVER FOR ME. THANKS AGAIN FOR THAT COURTESY.

I AM GLAD THAT YOU ARE STILL ENJOYING YOUR JOB AND I THINK BY THIS TIME YOU WILL HAVE HAD SOME WORD ABOUT A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT. SOME DAY I'LL TELL YOU THE DETAILS.

THINGS ARE MOVING ALONG VERY NICELY, BUT THE WEATHER HAS BEEN AS HOT HERE AS IT HAS BEEN COLD AND RAINY AT YOUR PLACE. WE HOPE FOR SOME IMPROVEMENT VERY SOON NOW.

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT I HAVE ORGANIZED A GROUP TO WORK ON THE VOYNICH (ALLEGED ROGER BACON) MANUSCRIPT. DUMEY IS IN IT. WE CARRY IT ON AS AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY. YOU MAY WANT TO TAKE A HAND LATER.

WE HAVE BEEN SEEING LOUISE FAIRLY FREQUENTLY AND SHE SEEMS TO BE BEARING UP UNDER YOUR ABSENCE. WE ARE GOING TO THE A-N CLUB IN A PARTY WITH HER TONIGHT.

WITH VERY BEST REGARDS, I AM,

SINCERELY YOURS,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN.
Dear Mr. Friedman,

I understand that Earnshaw-Smith didn't send the living book as he had promised to do, but my advertisement has yielded a copy and it, together with a reprint of the Biometrika article will leave here by bag within a day or so. Consequently you may have them before this arrives. I hope you find them interesting. I glanced at the article by Yule and must say that it looked awfully dull.

I still haven't played any golf but my suitcase containing my shoes finally arrived a few days ago and weather permitting, I now hope to play a little. Am spending this week-end with the Dennistsones and we're scheduled to play on Sunday. The golf balls for him were in the same suitcase so he'll finally be able to present them.

Am still enjoying my job here a great deal but am getting to the point where I promise to hear that my replacement has at least been selected.

Best regards to you and Mrs. Friedman.

[Signature]

V - MAN
Dear Mr. Friedman,

I have received two letters from you and appreciated them very much. Even though my work continues to be most interesting, there is a tendency to get lonely and it is very nice to hear from friends as well as from my wife.

R. arrived a week ago and came up here Tuesday for a week. Then he's planning to spend a week or so in London and the balance of his time back here. He seems to be enjoying his trip and I know he will have many interesting things to report.

Had luncheon with D. in London yesterday and he told me about your accidental meeting with his daughter on the train.

He told many of your friends about your award and they were all interested and pleased. Louise sent me a newspaper clipping with photographs which I passed around to some of them.

Hope you get to play golf with Louise one of these days. I know she enjoys it even though she plays rather seldom. I haven't played at all yet, as it is still waiting for warm weather or my golf clothes.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
CAPT. WALTER J. FRIED, 0922050, MR. WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN,
SSD, HQ., ETOUSA, 3932 MILITARY ROAD, N.W.,
APO #887, c/o POSTMASTER, HQ., ETOUSA,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK, WASHINGTON 15, D. C.

6 JUNE 44.

DEAR WALTER:

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER OF 20 MAY. I HAVE A LETTER FROM DENNISTON IN WHICH HE INDICATES HIS SATISFACTION AND PLEASURE IN HAVING YOU, AND ALSO A HIGH REGARD FOR YOUR KEENNESS.

I EXPECT THAT YOU ARE SEEING SOMETHING OF R AND ARE GETTING THE LATEST EVENTS ABOUT US FROM HIM.

WOULD YOU BE GOOD ENOUGH TO TRY TO OBTAIN A COPY OF A REPRINT OF THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE FOR ME. MAYBE FELBY CAN HELP YOU: ON SENTENCE-LENGTH AS A STATISTICAL CHARACTERISTIC OF STYLE IN PROSE: WITH APPLICATION TO TWO CASES OF DISPUTED AUTHORSHIP--BY G. UDNY YULE, VOLUME XXX, PARTS III AND IV, BROMETRIKA, JANUARY 1939.

BY THIS TIME I HOPE YOU HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO TRY OUT ONE OR TWO GOLF COURSES. YOU MAY BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT MY GAME HAS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY, BUT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT THIS IS A TEMPORARY STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THAT OBNOXIOUS SO-CALLED SPORT.

EVERYBODY SENDS VERY BEST REGARDS.

SINCERELY,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN.
28 July 1944.

Captain Walter J. Fried,
S.S.A. Liaison Officer,
G C & C S,

Dear Captain Fried:

From time to time the technical reports which you have been sending us are brought to my attention and I want to tell you how much I as well as many others at Arlington Hall appreciate the good work you have been doing in keeping us so well informed technically regarding the many important phases of the activities at GC & CS. Not only is the frequency with which you submit reports appreciated, but also your painstaking attention in setting forth technical details and facts is very helpful.

By agreement with the Navy it was recently decided that SSA and OP-20-G liaison personnel to GC & CS should be authorized to confer frequently, in order that both services may jointly benefit by the presence of liaison officers to that organization. There will also be an exchange of technical reports submitted, and this exchange will take place in Washington. By frequent consultation between liaison officers on the spot and by such an exchange of reports it is hoped not only to cover the field more adequately but also to give our British allies one more indication of the existing closeness of United States Army and Navy cooperation and collaboration in the whole field.

In connection with your replacement some time in the fall, consideration is being given to providing a civilian as a replacement. I would appreciate your views as to the desirability of making such a selection, especially from the viewpoint of his acceptability and ability to do the job, providing of course he is technically qualified.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

W. Preston Corderman,
Colonel, Signal Corps,
Commanding.
424 No. George Mason Dr.
Arlington, Va.
22 May 1950

Mr. Walter J. Fried
Riegelman, Strasser, Schwarz & Spiegelberg
160 Broadway
New York 7, New York

Dear Walter:

Your letter of 31 January 1950 enclosing a review of
Alexander Foote's book should have been answered a long time
ago but I think you know that I have been ill and that is the
reason for the delay. I am back at my desk now and feel very
much better. Yesterday we had a lovely day, the first one
in a long time and I played 18 holes of golf. I wasn't too
tired after it.

Next time you come down here I want you to be sure to
give me a call. I miss seeing you occasionally.

I should have said in the first part of this letter that
I read Foote's book and thought that he did a pretty good
job. I think there is more truth in his book than in almost
any other one of this type that I have read. Thank you for
keeping me in mind and if you run across any other things in
which you think I would have an interest receipt of such items
will be much appreciated.

With very best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
3932 Military Road
Washington 15, D. C.
October 12, 1945

Dear Walter:

On my return from Europe some weeks ago, I was very pleased to find your letter of August 28, and I have meant to answer it long before this. I have naturally been busy and on top of this I have not been feeling too well because of a bad cold and a strained back.

I do want to say that I appreciate very much your courteous words of thanks for what little I was able to do by way of getting you in and out of the Army and whatever little things that I did while you were in. I can assure you that I enjoyed having you as a friend and associate, and I miss you very much.

Last evening we had the pleasure of being guests for dinner with Captain and Mrs. Smadback. They are now settled in their own apartment and are very happy. We wish that we had known how up against it they were for quarters when Lou came back because we did have plenty of room for them, especially when Elizabeth was all alone.

I will be very happy to hear from you and to learn how your personal reorientation is coming along.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Walter J. Fried
160 Broadway
New York, New York
August 28th, 1945

Mr. William F. Friedman
SSD - HQ - USFET (Rear)
APO 887, c/o Postmaster, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

I suppose you have heard by now, through channels, that I am out of the Army. I reached New York yesterday and although already ensconced in my office, have not yet done any work. I find that there are a great many odds and ends involved in getting settled, and they are not by any means completed as yet.

I had dinner with Mrs. Friedman about ten days ago and saw her again for cocktails (with Herbert Maass) the day before I left Washington. We had a very enjoyable time on both occasions. Confidentially, she misses you. I saw some pictures of you in uniform, and you certainly looked healthy and happy.

I want to tell you how much I appreciate not only the help you gave me in getting out of the Army, but also all you did for me while I was in. I am very happy to be out, but additionally happy that the Japanese war ended before the actual date of my release. I am in hopes that being out will substantially facilitate the settlement of my personal affairs.

Mrs. Friedman promised that whenever you get to New York you will get in touch with me. At the moment I am living at my mother's apartment, 1130 Park Avenue, Sacramento 2-7663, but don't know how much longer I will be there. However, I can also be reached at my office, Rector 2-0688. On the other hand, if I come to Washington, I shall certainly get in touch with you and hope I will be able to see you.

I don't know if you are going back to England, but if you do, please give my kindest regards to my many good friends there.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Capt. Walter J. Fried, 0922050  Wm/ F. Friedman  
SSD HQ ETOUSA  4000 Lee Boulevard  
APO #887  Arlington, Va.  
c/o Postmaster, New York

Dear Walter:

Thank you very much for your letter of 21 April which arrived about 10 days ago. I was extremely pleased to receive your congratulations.

It is good to know that your work continues to be fascinating. I knew that it would be so and if anything that I wrote and you had a chance to read before leaving was helpful, as you indicate in your letter, the pains to which I went in setting forth a connected narrative are well repaid. I have been reading your stuff and wish to indicate my appreciation of the sort of job you are doing. Keep up the good work even though I know that you are doing it at considerable effort. I realize how much ground there is to cover and I know that you are not finding many spare moments.

I presume that by this time you have met "r" and I hope you will like him as much as we do.

I threatened to call up Louise to play golf with me. She has agreed to do so and I think it will be nice to play occasionally after work. I saw her last Friday night at a card party at the A.O. Club. She didn't do much card playing nor did I, but we sat around and talked. She seems quite well.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,
P.S. When I spoke to the people at the bank about the faith and the trust I have in their expertise, they assured me that my money is safe. However, I still have a lot of questions and concerns about the stability of the bank. I believe that I need to explore other options that will provide better security for my financial future. Please let me know if you have any suggestions or recommendations.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Dear Walter:

Thank you very much for your letter of 2 April. I am glad that you are finding things so interesting. What you say about your admiration for your associates does not astonish me at all and from the very first, I recognized that they were indeed more grown up than we. We really have a great deal to learn from them and I know that you will make the very best of your present opportunities. I found them extremely easy to get along with and I know that you will too.

No doubt Louise has told you of my visit a couple of weeks ago which I enjoyed very much. I saw her, incidently, the other day when I was over at the club to play a little golf; she looks well.

I have been seeing some of your reports and find them interesting, that is, what I can understand of them. Some of the stuff is perfectly unintelligible, but that is my fault.

Things are moving along here about as usual. I think you will soon see a friend of yours from here who is coming over for a short visit. I suppose you know that Dumey got a couple of bars last week. This pleased me as much as it did him perhaps.

Will you be good enough to convey my cordial greetings to all of my friends there? They might be interested to know, if they don't already, that I was recently the recipient of the highest award for civilian service. In addition to the honor I also got an automatic increase in pay which, of course, was an additional item of pleasure.

With best regards, I am, 

Sincerely yours,
Dear Mr. Friedman,

Just wanted to let you know that I'm comfortably settled in the hotel you stopped at and to thank you for various bits of advice on things to take along. The weather is still cold and damp although we've had a few nice days.

The things I sent by water haven't arrived yet so I haven't been able to make that gift of golf balls yet. It's been too cold to play—at least for an American.

I have been enjoying my work here immensely and acquire more admiration for the British every day. It's not purely a matter of ability and achievements but rather that, in so many respects, they seem so much more grown up than we.

Most of the people who have been visiting you have not yet returned but are expected shortly. I am naturally anxious to meet some of them.

Please remember me to Mrs. Friedman.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

V....MAIL