

GEORGE FABYAN  
CHICAGO

Sept. 6, 1919.

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Dear General Churchill:

I carefully note letter of September 2nd, over your signature. There is no more guessing in Cryptography than there is in Algebra. "Guessing", is undignified - "assumption", sounds lots better.

I don't question the sincerity of any of the General Officers but some of the subordinates have made us dance without giving us a chance to select the tune, but I suppose we will forget it some day.

If Riverbank had invented a cipher and I had put myself on record that it was indecipherable and had been awarded the D.S.M. and had the cipher printer especially mentioned in the citation and my boss had been made the Knight of St. George and St. Michael on account of the machine printing across the ocean, I doubt if I would be very enthusiastic about anybody proving that "my doll was stuffed with sawdust" and I think I very likely would put as many obstacles in their way. I enclose copy of a message sent us by Mauborgne sometime ago, which we never tried to work on because it was not long enough and yet, when he was here, he said we had no right to jump at any conclusions as to the number of cycles or the length of the message. He knew, at the time, we wanted three complete revolutions of the tape and left us to infer that this message covered that and confirmed it when he was here.

I wish, if possible, someone in the M.I.D. could ascertain in regard to this and see if the message is not less than one cycle and for that reason, impossible to decipher.

I don't understand why Mauborgne don't send us the messages. The machine has been set up for over three weeks and yet, he cannot send us two hours work but asks for one delay after another, which Riverbank construes as trying to get another scheme to work out.

Sincerely yours,

To General M. Churchill,  
Woodward Apartment,  
2301 Connecticut Ave.,  
Washington, D. C.

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