

File

14 January 1944

Dear Travis:

In a recent talk with Lieutenant Barasch, who recently returned from his tour of duty at BP, he told me of a conversation with Mr. Parkin, War Office Liaison Officer at BP, which aroused my interest. It seems that somebody, maybe it was Parkin, had been studying the movements of a certain Japanese vessel which visited various points in the Pacific Theatre some months ago for the probable purpose of distributing new code books or cipher instructions to Japanese Military or Naval units. If possible, I would like to have whatever data can be made available on this matter for it may have more than a theoretical interest or curiosity value. Possibly Lieut. Colonel Thompson can shed some light on this business.

Mrs. Friedman and I were delighted to receive the beautiful Christmas card from you. We used to send out greetings yearly to our friends and mostly to their chagrin because they were invariably in some sort of cipher. Many of them complained that their enjoyment of Christmas Day was somewhat dampened by their struggles to read the Friedman greeting. Of late years though, either our energies have run out or our ideas. At any rate for the duration we have called a halt to inventions of this sort, so that is why you did not receive a card from us.

Mrs. Friedman tells me that she has met Mr. Foss and I am looking forward to seeing him again. I also had hoped to get a glimpse of Mr. Hinsley, but so far he has been kept pretty busy.

You will be pleased to learn no doubt that Joe Wenger is very much better and is at present recuperating in Florida. I expect him back the end of February and I think he will be returned to duty.

I saw Rose the other day for just a minute or two and hope to have a longer chat with him in the near future.

By this time I know that you have been apprised of our intention to hold the second Japanese conference here and I am looking forward to seeing somebody from BP.

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I hope that this letter will find you in better health and I want to take this opportunity to convey to you and yours our best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman

Commander E. W. Travis  
GC and CS

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11/13/1918