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Arlington Hall Station
Arlington, Va.
U.S.A.
20 August 1943

Dear Travis:

I learned today, with sincere regret, from Pat Bayly that you have been somewhat under the weather since your return, and I hasten to send you my wishes for a speedy recovery.

I know that I have been very remiss in failing to send you long ago a note to thank you for the many courtesies shown me by yourself and by the many members of your staff during my tour at Bletchley Park. In extenuation, I can only plead that I deferred writing until there could be sent along at the same time a copy of my first report based upon the voluminous notes which I took during my visit. When I commenced its preparation I found that to do what I regarded as a necessary and thorough job of it, I would have to go into details and try to convey on paper something which would give a fair picture of the very important, not to say astonishing, operations which I had the good fortune to see. So it took considerable time but the other day I filed a rather extensive report on the E operations and a copy is being sent you officially. I know that it will have some errors but I hope that they will not be of a serious nature. If somebody would be good enough to write a brief criticism pointing out wherein I went astray I should be very grateful.

First of all, permit me to say that my admiration for your very remarkable organization and the supremely important work which has been done by you and your people is unbounded. I feel that when Mr. Churchill made his now famous statement to the effect that "never before did so many owe so much to so few", he must have had BP in mind, as well as certain others more prominently in the public eye.

I should, of course, like to write individual letters of thanks to everybody who was so kind and helpful to me, but this is impossible. However, I cannot refrain from mentioning a few people by name.

For the opportunity of meeting and having such pleasant conversation with your Chief, and for his opening wide the gates to the Inner Sanctum, I am deeply grateful.

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To Colonel Tiltman I have written a special letter of thanks.

To Mr. DeGrey I owe a special debt of gratitude, for during your absence he took prompt care of my slightest and oftentimes most casually expressed wish. I owe him special thanks for having made my trip to Cambridge possible and also for having made possible my trip to Oxford, on which he accompanied me and from which I derived much information and considerable pleasure.

To Mr. Welchman and to Wing Commander Jones I owe special thanks for the very considerable time they took from more pressing duties to talk with me and give me a comprehensive picture of what their organizations were doing. Mr. Fletcher, in Mr. Welchman's group, was extremely helpful in guiding me through the complex maze of Hut 6 operations. To the many, many people in Hut 6 and Hut 3 who were so indulgent and who patiently answered the many questions which I asked, the answers to which were duly recorded in my notes, particular thanks are due.

To Professor Boase, to Dr. McVittie, and to the various other people in Mr. Cooper's organization, and to Mr. Cooper himself, I owe a considerable debt for the opportunity of seeing a fine show. I find it difficult to express my sincere appreciation of the great courtesy shown Lieutenant Colonel Taylor and myself by Mr. Cooper when he took the time to accompany us on a whole day's tour of Cheadle.

To Mr. Page and to Mr. Twinn, of ISOS and ISK fame, I owe a debt for the large amount of their own time they gave me, telling me the story of their shows, which I found rather fascinating—almost like what one expects to see at the Cinema.

To Colonel Pritchard, Major Thompson, Major Evans, Major Alexander, Captain Shiner, Captain Nenck, Captain Webster, and Captain Ingleby are due many thanks for a fine tour through No. IV I.S., and to Major Lewis and Major Gadd are due my thanks for an equally fine tour through their parts of No. VI I.S.

I must not fail to mention several others, such as Mr. Freeborn, who personally took me through his "works" and later prepared a special report at my request; Major Morgan, who, as the head of your very capable research group, was very helpful; Paymaster Commander Dudley-Smith, who gave me the benefit of his studies on cryptographic security.

Then there is Commander Hok, who provided a delightful luncheon when I visited his show at Oxford and devoted the

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whole of an afternoon to showing me through his very interesting show; and Wing Commander Swanborough, who provided a fine luncheon and dinner and who devoted many hours to showing Colonel Taylor and myself through his very excellent show at Cheadle.

To Commander Bradshaw, and his able assistants, to Captain Kaye and to Mr. Nicholson I am indebted for many courtesies which looked toward my personal comfort. Finally, I shall never forget the memorable and happy day I spent with Professor Vincent at Cambridge. For that delightful visit and my illuminating talks with him on that occasion my special thanks are due him.

All in all, largely as a result of the many kindnesses and courtesies extended to me by you and so many other people at BP, I shall retain in memory for a long time a recollection of a tour that constituted one of the most informative and at the same time most pleasurable periods in my life. There are undoubtedly many people whose names I have failed to mention herein and I hope that you will be good enough to convey to everybody my deep thanks, whether I have mentioned their names or not, and that you will be so good as to extend my apologies for being unable to thank each of them individually by letter.

Things are moving quickly here and I have high hopes that we will be able to do something toward hitting the bulls-eye in the Japanese army problem as you have on the various problems you have so successfully tackled.

Reiterating my personal thanks to you, and with most cordial greetings and best wishes for your good health, I am

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman
Director of Communications
Research

Commander E. W. Travis
GC & CS

P.S. I'm sure you will be interested in a suitable "Theme Song" for Huts 3 and 6. Maybe it is well-known to the people at BP but I came across it only the other day. Here is a copy for you in case it is new.

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