

SPSIS-3

9 October 1943

Colonel C.V.L. Lycett  
The War Office  
Whitehall, S.W.1

Dear Colonel Lycett:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 11th of September, which I read with a great deal of pleasure and some nostalgia for the excellent time I had as a guest of the British.

This will be just a short note to tell you that I did succeed in getting the wheels started once more after a very heavy stop that seemed to have frozen them. Major Yorke was good enough to come to my office last week and we had a very pleasant conference on the subject of Link-Sign Procedure. I have gotten some very good support lined up among my own people here and when the matter comes up, as it will within a short time, I hope, we expect to be ready with some pretty good arguments.

I liked Major Yorke very much and am anticipating some pleasant social relations. He has asked me to dine with him and I hope to be able to accept very soon.

Did you get to meet Colonel Corderman? I hope you did because we all are very much devoted to him and he knows what it is all about. Also, have you met Captain Seaman and Mr. Ferner? Captain Seaman I think you would like very much as an all-round scholar. Ferner is very quiet but extremely able.

Please give my very best regards to everybody. With cordial greetings, I am,

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman  
Director of Communications  
Research

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The War Office,

Whitehall, S.W.1

11th September, 1943.

Dear: *Mr Friedman*

Thank you very much for your letter. I am very pleased indeed to hear that you enjoyed your stay with us so much and have taken away with you memories which appear to have been so happy. For my part I can only say that I was very pleased indeed to have had the opportunity of meeting you and of taking you round and showing you what little we had to show <sup>90%</sup> not excepting the bowling green at Woburn Sands!

I sincerely hope that I shall be able to take advantage of your kind offer and visit you in the States, but so far I have not been able to think up a sufficiently cast-iron excuse to persuade my lords and masters that such a visit would be necessary in the interests of the war effort.

I was very gratified to hear that you had already taken up the question of the code sign procedure. I understand that this is still under discussion between the War Department and the British Army Staff in Washington. Our procedure expert on that Staff, Major Yorke, is back home on a flying visit and tells me that he is having considerable difficulty in persuading the powers-that-be in the War Department of the necessity for using link-sign procedure. As an officer who has had battle experience with the 8th Army in North Africa, both before and after the introduction of the link-sign procedure there, he will be able to give you any ammunition you require to shoot down objectors to the system who cavil at any imaginary difficulties in training or operation. He badly needs help in his battle with the War Department on this subject, and feels that you

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could give him support, as he thinks that the best method of attack now left open is through the Security and Intelligence side.

I should be very grateful indeed if you would get in touch with him to see if indeed it is possible to bring concerted action to bear on the diehards. His address is Major P.L. Yorke, R. Sigs., Grafton Hotel, 1139 Connecticut Avenue, and his phone number is Executive 4500, Extension 210.

Yorke will be leaving for the States in about a week's time. Incidentally, he was captured by the Germans, evacuated to Crete where he escaped, and after many wanderings in the island got back to Egypt, so he should have many interesting reminiscences if you can get him to talk.

Please give my kind regards to Colonel McCormack if and when you see him. I have passed on your messages to those concerned.

Yours sincerely



W.F. Friedman, Esq.,  
Director of Communications Research,  
Arlington Hall Station,  
Washington.

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Arlington Hall Station  
18 August 1943

Dear Colonel Lycett:

I have been meaning to write to you for a long time.

I had a very quick and uneventful journey back to the United States. The change from the comparative cold of Scotland to the extreme heat of Washington was sudden and somewhat devastating. From June 13, until yesterday it has been one long and unbroken siege of extremely hot weather and I believe that some records were broken. Nevertheless we have all continued to work hard despite this handicap.

First of all I must hasten to thank you for the many courtesies you showed me while I was in England. You were so kind and helpful, especially when I disrupted what might have been a very pleasant and quiet journey from London to Beaumanor by plying you with many questions, the answers to which I carefully put down in my little notebook. However, so far as concerned me, not only did I gather a considerable amount of information from you but in doing so I was having a good time.

Of course I must not fail to mention the profitable visit which I had under your sponsorship at Beaumanor. I have not yet gotten down to writing that section of my report but expect to do so in a day or two. A couple of days ago I handed in my first report, which came to about 120 pages of single-spaced typewritten material and all of this came from a relatively small number of pages of notes. When the Beaumanor report comes out you will be able to see it, for a copy will be sent. I got a great deal out of my visit to that station.

Then again one of my most pleasant and pleasurable recollections is the luncheon at the United Services Club to which you took me as your guest. If you suffered the slightest bit of embarrassment on account of what might have appeared to have been dilatoriness on the part of the waitress you need not have, because I was absorbing the atmosphere to the fullest extent of which I am capable even though this absorption might not have been obvious. It was a grand experience and I especially want to thank you for the opportunity to visit that great institution.

Again, I recall with pleasure our bowling on the green at Woburn-Sands. I found that game rather delightful and the speed with which you made up the temporary lead I gained as a result

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of "beginner's luck" amazed me. Somehow I am reminded, in this connection, of the present situation of the British vis-a-vis the Nazis and also of that very famous expression to the effect that "England loses every battle except the last". Incidentally I may add that we have all been very much heartened by the recent successes of the United Nations Forces on various sides and are beginning to hope that the end of the struggle is not too far off.

You are probably anxious to know what I have been able to do about the Link-Sign business. Soon after I returned I began to feel my way a bit cautiously because I am not a member of the Procedures Committee of the Joint or Combined Communications Board and I realized that the matter might be in a somewhat delicate status. However, I have now gotten into the business and talks are proceeding which I hope will culminate in a manner satisfactory to all concerned. It seems that our Signal Security people were not very intimately concerned in this matter until I came into the picture (or shall I say, barged into it?) However, Colonel McCrary seems to be fairly well disposed toward listening to our point of view and although I have not yet dealt with him directly but only through his immediate assistant, I expect to do so within a very few days. I realize the time is pressing and that we ought to get this matter straightened out very promptly.

Can't you possibly figure out some good reason why official business requires your presence in Washington? It would give me a great deal of pleasure to have you here for several weeks. Maybe you can think up something, but it seems to me that the Link-Sign business might be sufficient, except that I know a certain major on your staff who would be greatly disappointed if you had the opportunity instead of him.

Once more, permit me to thank you for your kindnesses to me. At Beaumanor I want you please to convey my thanks to Commander Ellingworth in particular for his many courtesies, also his deputy, Mr. Wirt, and his many very able assistants, such as Messrs. Roberts, Siddall, Barfield, and others whose names I did not record and do not now recall. I should like to write and thank each of them individually for their courtesies but time will not permit so I must ask that you be so good as to convey to them all my thanks, and apologies for not writing them individually.

With cordial greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman  
Director of Communications  
Research

Colonel C. V. L. Lycett  
c/o Colonel J. H. Tiltman  
GC & CS



The War Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1

12th June 1943.

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Dear Mr. Friedman,

Herewith is a copy of the literature on  
code-sign systems, which I promised you.

Would you please sign the receipt form and  
return it in due course?

I hope you have had a good trip and enjoyed  
your crossing.

Yours sincerely,

*G. V. R. Lytton*

W. Friedman, Esq.,  
c/o Colonel Tiltman,  
G.C. & C.S.  
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~~MOST SECRET~~