

2 November 1954

Mr. William A. Friedman
National Security Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the very kind comments you recently made in connection with the Code and Cipher chapter of my draft MID History covering the peacetime years (1919-1941). They are already proving to be most helpful in my current final revision task. May I ask your further indulgence in order to clear up another point?

The following statement was contained in General Mauborgne's letter of comment:

"I suggest that one or more paragraphs be inserted in the present text to cover the fact that I persuaded Secretary Stimson to let the Army send one of the Army-designed Japanese diplomatic code-breaking machines to the British High Command in London together with certain experts to demonstrate the use thereof, since we feared that the Navy was about to send over one of these machines and steal Army thunder. Mr. Friedman can give the entire story and state just what we got from the British in return -- a most important swap worth recording on the pages of history."

I agree with General Mauborgne that this exchange should be mentioned and hope that you may see fit to fill out the gap for me, including the time element.

Incidentally, Mr. Fabyan did publish two books in regard to his Bacon decipherment effort. They are presently very difficult to locate but I secured both of them through the Department of the Army inter-library loan service. I only made full note of one of them, however, as follows:

George Fabyan, The Keys for Deciphering the Greatest Work of Sir Francis Bacon (Geneva, Ill. 1916).

Sincerely yours

BRUCE W. BIDWELL
Colonel U.S.A. Ret.