

Interviews SigC Hist Div with Col. W. Friedman, Washington, D. C.

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Colonel Friedman did not think Myer so big a genius in code/ciphers . . . his cipher disc, or rather the outcome of it that was long used in the Army was very simple two-disc job with reversed alphabets. . .

Mauborgne did not deserve much credit for M-94. This was really a strip system, using maximum number of alphabets, bent round into disc form, see Friedman's article in Signal Corps Bulletin Nos. 98 and 99, late 1937. Was an adaptation of Jefferson's system. Friedman instituted a search for a model of the Jefferson device, both at Monticello and elsewhere, but never succeeded in finding one.

Fabyan spent his money freely, was never recognized in any way, a crummy deal; The government never gives anybody anything. With reference to his own work, no "consolation prize," but outright purchase of his renowned patent rights.

Fayban paid for hotel in nearby town where students studied. They were getting pay for quarters, yet Fabyan paid it all himself. Classes were larger than 50. Last class was 75; photo is a crypto, faces straight ahead is dash, faces turned left is dot, spells out (?) Knowledge is Power. . . .

After WW I AG refused Friedman commission for bad heart, so SigC hired him as civilian. Friedman's pre-war teaching at Mornmouth "sunk in." Had officers years later say this to him. Won hostility of other instructors because students concentrated on code cipher stuff to exclusion of other courses.

Hagelin box not secure, if on request for repeat, a second sending at same setting were sent. Germans read 90 percent of messages in Hagelin. Friedman recommended "no" on its use, but Akin overruled him so that troops might have a device. Americans want gadgets such as this. Actually hand systems better, and both Germans and British got along well thru the war with hand systems (in the field) where we used the Hagelin. Friedman has on door "Quiet" placard of Kreuger, Swedish crypto expert, and Hagelin related. Hagelin wasn't standardized so early as I indicated, possibly not till 1940.

Army used AT&T type tty cipher machines. Printing telegraph, to be distinguished from Sigaba which used rotors and produced a literal tape, that is a tape with letters on it, which radio xtr men had to convert to Morse code, was extremely secure, . . . danger of Colmar incident, (Friedman calls it a compromise, though enemy did not know what it was), was not that Germans might read our stuff, which they still couldn't even with the machine, but that they might copy it and then we could not read their stuff. . .

Was the navy ECM.

Printing telegraph, or rather I guess the job which punched holes for TTY was SigCum and Sigtot, both on line. SigCum printing of on and off lines not as secure, maybe one hundredth as secure as Sigaba but was used in theaters. But long overseas hops the more secure Sigtot was best. It used one-time tape. Had to have same tape at both Xtr and rcvr. Tape moved along in syncrho with tty. If gaps occurred because of fading, machines at both ends staid syncrho and proceeded o. k. Meant an enormous amount of tape production and distribution, billions of tapes. One whole factory turning them out.

Stresses Navy cooperation greatly . . . a case with cipher machine where failure to cooperate would have denied both services the unspeakable value of a secure machine system . . . .

Felt CSigOs after Mauborgne weak men, Sig Intell lost because of weakness, and fear. SigC officers afraid after PH - though this was not fault of SigC, it might get blame. Carter Clark an ambitious man. Navy keeps its sig intell where it belongs, inseparatable from sig opns, not in navy intelligence.

No intercept material in pre-war days. Mauborgne when on west coast himself set up a rcvr and sat up late at nite getting material for SIS. 2d Sig Co, detachments, as 5th station in Hawaii, got very little. Local CG autormous, would knock out such idiocies "never heard of it, pfft out."

Ridiculous secrecy which makes Amer military look like fools, when much is already in the public domain. Sam Morison trying to shake loose Yamemoto story was denied by CG ASA, or Navy, even by Sec Navy. . . . yet tis in public domain.

[ see also ]  
 in W Farago's  
 bk War of Wits 1954

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