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WAR DEPARTMENT

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MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
3 East 38th St.

NEW YORK, August 20, 1919.

Brigadier General Marlborough Churchill, U. S. A.,
Director of Military Intelligence,
Washington, D. C.

My dear General Churchill:

[Colonel Mauborgne and I arrived in Chicago Saturday morning. Major Crockett met us and drove us to Riverbank. (After luncheon Mr. Fabyan led us to a conference room where his cipher force explained the details of their methods of solution.)

Colonel Mauborgne then handed them a list of instructions clearly defining the method of procedure of the Signal Corps in enciphering messages in the A. T. & T.

This precipitated a heated statement from Fabyan who charged that after "busting" the cipher, the method of encipherment was changed.]

Colonel Mauborgne replied that the cipher as used by the Signal Corps had not been "busted"; that he himself was unaware of Gherardi's method; and that the machine belonged to the A. T. & T. but that the method of using it was determined by the Signal Corps.

I anticipated that Mr. Fabyan would charge unfairness, and had determined to keep in the background, letting Mr. Fabyan direct his ill feeling toward the Signal Corps instead of M. I. D.

[However after they had exploded and were smiling again, I told Mr. Fabyan that on my arrival in Washington I recommended that the Signal Corps be informed of what has been accomplished at Riverbank, expressly giving Mr. Fabyan credit for the discoveries, but that when I personally explained everything to Colonel Mauborgne he showed me several tapes that were not 1000 letters long, that were not displaced only one point, and that did not start to encipher until the message itself began, so that it was unfair to Colonel Mauborgne to state that his method changed

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after Riverbank had made their discoveries.

Colonel Mauborgne then said that he would be only too glad to give Mr. Fabyan all the material he wanted to work on and Mr. Fabyan still pretending to be suspicious replied that he could not be sure that there would not be some trick encipherment.

Colonel Mauborgne then suggested that I encipher the messages but preferring to have charges of unfairness, if such charges were to be made, directed at the Signal Corps rather than M. I. D., I replied that inasmuch as the Signal Corps had used the machine, Signal Corps operators should encipher the test messages.

[We both assured him of our willingness to grant any request he wished to make regarding the number of messages, etc., to be submitted and the meeting finally broke up with the understanding that Mr. Fabyan's cipher force would examine the Signal Corps method and then determine the character and length of material that should be sent in as test messages.]

In the test messages Mr. Fabyan will know the meaning of the cipher indicators which will permit him to arrange the messages in cycles. I stated that their meaning should be as secret as the cipher tape itself; that we used cipher indicators with our code but their meaning changed as often as the cipher alphabets.]

Colonel Mauborgne is very anxious that I submit a method for doing this. I have a method in mind that can change every day, as do the tapes, a method that is simple, sound, and invulnerable to attack. As Colonel Mauborgne considers this very important, I believe it should be brought to the attention of the Signal Corps officially instead of informally. Within a few days I shall have the method and a memorandum to the Signal Corps before you.

[It is to be remembered that the cipher indicators of the messages that the Signal Corps send to Mr. Fabyan will be known, permitting him to arrange them in cycles.]

I dined with Major Crockett at the club where we talked until nearly midnight about the Chicago office. He is afraid that this investigation at Leavenworth will not come to your personal attention and considers this the most important case he has handled for some time. He urged me to ask you to read this file and let him know what course he should take; that is, should his investigation continue, etc.

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Regarding the proposed new War Department Telegraph Code, I beg to suggest that if the Signal Corps pleads that they cannot carry out the recommendations of M. I. D., that I am prepared to take the entire job off their hands. Colonel Dunn is handling this case.

Very sincerely,

H. O. Yardley
HERBERT O. YARDLEY,
Major, U. S. Army.

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