

14

EXECUTIVE DIVISION
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

replying refer to

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON.

August 14, 1919.

4131-528
20
WAR DEPARTMENTBrigadier General M. Churchill,
Director, Military Intelligence Division,
Washington, D. C.

My dear General Churchill:

Referring to our trip to Geneva, Illinois, I believe that a memorandum in some such form as the following to the Chief Signal Officer of the Army will cover the American Telephone and Telegraph subject.

1. In July, 1918, full details of the American Telephone and Telegraph cipher machine were furnished to Mr. George Fabyan of Geneva, Illinois, by Mr. Gherardi of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

2. Mr. Fabyan has just explained to the Director of Military Intelligence Division the principles by which the cipher can be broken, provided full details of the machine and either several short messages or one message long enough to make three cycles of the cipher tapes fall into the hands of the enemy. Under conditions in which the enemy may obtain copies of the code messages and the details of the construction and operation of the machine cipher, its use is unsafe.

3. The Division is informed that the A. T. & T. cipher machine has been stored and is no longer used. Before this machine is used again or before any steps are taken to build a small field cipher based on the principles of the machine, it is recommended that Military Intelligence Division be consulted.

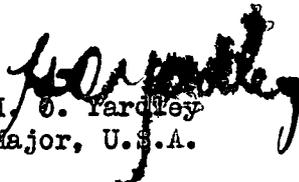
I believe that you should write an official letter to Mr. Fabyan, enclosing a copy of the memorandum to the Chief Signal Officer, expressing thanks and appreciation for his investigations, and assuring him of your desire to receive any other information that he may develop.

I do not believe it advisable at this time to go into de-

Gen. M. C. - 2.

tails with the Signal Corps, for until Colonel Mauborgne returns, there will be no one in that office capable of understanding technical details.

Very sincerely,


H. O. Yardley
Major, U.S.A.

mea