

In reply please refer to

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

Office Chief of Staff
MIL. INT. BRANCH

JUL 25
1919

1919

MID 4131-526

July 25, 1919.

WAR DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Subject: Letter to Mr. George Fabyan.

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
MIL. INT. BRANCH

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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The Secretary of War directs that a letter be drafted substantially as follows and sent to Mr. George Fabyan, Riverbank, Geneva, Illinois, in reply to his letters of May 5, June 16, and July 5, 1919:

1. The Department begs to express its thanks for the information contained in your letters of May 5, June 16, and July 5, concerning the American Telephone and Telegraph Company cipher.
2. Though the Department is pleased to receive information from citizens, it is not its policy to discuss with anyone whose acts are not controlled by the War Department the details of its secret codes and ciphers whether in current or past use.
3. However, in order that you may no longer feel the responsibility expressed in your letters, the Department considers itself justified in informing you, that the need for the American Telephone and Telegraph cipher machine passed after the armistice of November, 1918, and its use was discontinued and machines were stored.
4. This Department is informed that the recommendations for the changes in this cipher, if need for its use arises, will largely depend upon how widely the details of the cipher machine and its alphabets have been circulated.

M. CHURCHILL,
Brigadier General, General Staff,
Director of Military Intelligence,
Assistant Chief of Staff.

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