

June 17, 1919.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

Mr. Bancroft Gherardi,  
A. T. & T. Co., 195 Broadway,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Gherardi:

The fact that we demonstrated to our own satisfaction that the machine cipher could be successfully attacked, and so reported to the Signal Corps, seems to have raised the ire of some of the experts in Washington, and they are desirous that we prove our statements by the deciphering of messages Nos. 1, 5, 6 and 7, which you sent us under date of June 11, 1918, and of which you undoubtedly have copies.

Knowing the ramifications of your great machine, I hesitate to tackle this job on account of the time and the number of operatives necessary, and the expense, but consistent with the proposition as it is now put up to me through the Adjutant General's office, it may be my duty to proceed, but before doing so, I would like to ask a favor, and that is, that you will furnish me, from wherever these messages left off on the camouflage tapes with messages Nos. 8, 9 and 10, of say, 500 to 700 letters each, for the reason that we feel that it would materially lessen the necessary amount of labor and consequent expense.

I think I have made it plain that we want three additional messages beginning where presumably No. 7 left off on the double key tapes.

I take it for granted that you are as much interested as the Government in knowing any weakness in this system, and while I think you are skeptical as they are about it, I think you would prefer the information in order to make the necessary changes rather than have the work of this machine deciphered by an enemy.

I will say for your information that I am on a strict diet and I could not avail myself of the good dinner you promised in the event of our deciphering these messages.

I desire to express my personal regret that we find ourselves on opposite sides of the fence, both sure of our ground, but the issue at stake is the good of the service. Trusting to hear from you promptly, and thanking you in advance, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(signed) George Fabyan.