

16th, February 1919

My dear Colonel Fabyan:

Your letter of 16th, February 1919 just received. It seems an age since I heard from you but I know it is my fault. I feel certain that I owe you one, if not several letters.

This letter is merely preliminary because I may find that it will take several days for me to secure opportunity to furnish you the cipher message and deciphered text as requested. Inasmuch as you are supposing that Lieutenant Brown has been captured with both the cipher message and the deciphered text on his person, it is apparent that your test requires the use of the manually operated machine cipher which would be the only one in line with such a supposition, as the message actually sent over the line in the cipher printer is never written down in Roman characters but is always in the form of a tape which never leaves the place. The manually operated machine mentioned, as you probably know, uses two key-tapes of short length on the same general principle as the electrically operated larger machine which you saw. I am not, however, going to give you any information as to the alphabet, etc. used since you have simply captured Lieutenant Brown and his message. You see I want to be as mean as possible about this.

[ I shall comply exactly with your requirement that the tapes make three complete rotations. ]

The experiment you propose is really of very much interest to the government in connexion with the possible use of this manually operated machine, of which I shall send you some photographs as soon as they can be made and at a later date copies of the alphabets used, etc.

With my warmest regards as ever

Yours,

Colonel George Fabyan,  
P. O. Box 435  
Chicago, Ill.

(J. M. Auborgne)

GEORGE FABYAN  
CHICAGO

February 16, 1919.

P.O BOX 435

Dear Colonel Mauborgne:

In reference to the machine ciphers, I wish to make an experiment. The supposition is that Lieutenant Brown is captured and has on his person a cipher message which he has deciphered.

[ Please send me a cipher message and the deciphered text in one message of sufficient length to require three rotations of the key tapes, that is, if one tape is 300 letters in length and the other is 299 letters, I want a message over 900 letters long or about 185 words.]

Please preserve the key tapes in your desk for the purpose of seeing if we can reconstruct them or their equivalent.

Yours,

