Ocricl.

22 APR 1952

SECULITY IN CREATER OF

TOP OFFICE - CECURITY INFORMATION

R = A Officer, CIA/AFDA koom 1011-B Arlington Hall Station Arlington, Virginia

Dear

Reference is made to your memorandum, subject: Secret Inks Bureau MI-8, dated 31 March 1952. All sources available to this Agency have been examined with a view to locating documents having a bearing on the subject. The material which is forwarded herewith is all that has been found. It is doubtful that a "complete official record of this Secret Inks Bureau" exists anywhere or was even made. The only possible sourcesnot searched by this Agency are the World War I files of the Military Intelligence Division, War Department, Washington, D. C.

The material being furnished you may be retained permanently.

Sincerely,

3 Incls:

1. Extracts dtd 25 May 45 and 30 Jun 1919.

- 2. Secret Ink Data (58 pages)
- 3. Objects of the Parcels Post Censorship (2 pages)

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WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN Consultant

W.F.Friedman/eby/22 Apr 52 Consultant/Ext. 60493

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 11-20-2014, pursuant to E.O. 13526

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VER USERE EPROID 5/A4-L/46484 MEMO ROUTING SLIP CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS INITIALS 1 NAME OR TITLE CIRCULATE DATE COORDINATION ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION 2 FILE INFORMATION OIA ha NECESSARY **ACTION** NOTE AND RETURN SEE ME SIGNATURE OGA REMARKS little on this 1. We have very AFSA ETURK FROM NAME OR TITLE DATE ىر 52 ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used. 06-16-48487-4 GPO ☆ 1 FEB 50 9

CH-901/52

Office Memorandum • United States Government

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: Mr. W. F. Friedman, Consultant,

DATE: 31 March 1952

AFSA-00-T

FROM : D& A Of

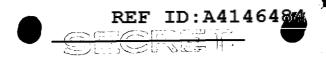
R & A Officer, CIA/AFSA, Room 1011-B, AHS

SUBJECT: Secret Inks Bureau of MI-8

- l. This office has received a requirement from the Technical Support Staff, SAD/CIA, for detailed information regarding the Secret Inks Bureau of MI-8 during World War I. Available references, such as Yardley's "American Black Chamber" and "War Department Annual Reports, 1919," Volume I, Part 1, page 329 have been consulted.
- 2. We would appreciate receiving information on the location of the complete official record of this Secret Inks Bureau, and any procedures necessary to get permission to inspect the record.

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organization and location Chief, AFSA-14	DATE	COORDINATION
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4		SEE ME
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Forwarded herewith is a photos	tat copy of	
"Secret Ink Data", for your re	tention.	
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Extract from

"The Achievements of the Cipher Bureau (MI-8)
During the First World War:
Documents by Major Herbert O. Yardley"

Dated 25 May 1945

"Secret Inks.

"That the enemy was using secret inks for some of his communications was known in a general way from a very early date. The first actual case that came to attention, however, seems to have been that of a letter written with invisible ink in Modern Greek and brought across the Mexican border in the shoe of an illiterate woman. This was developed by simple processes in M. I. 8 but many suspicious documents did not yield to treatment. Information of a general nature was obtained from the British and the French concerning German technique in this field, and after much correspondence M. I. 8 was put in possession of all the knowledge of our allies in these three ways:

- (a) By a voluminous report transmitted through Captain J. A. Powell, who was sent abroad in December 1917 to establish liaison with our allies in all ratters of this general nature.
- (b) By the visit to America at the expense of M. I. D. of Mr. S. W. Collins, one of the best of the British experts in the detection of secret inks.
- (c) By the visit of Captain Emmett K. Carver of M. I. 8 to Great Britain and France for study in the laboratories there.

"Correspondence and other preliminaries delayed for a painfully long time the establishment of a laboratory in M. I. 8. This did not actually take place until the removal to 1330 F Street in July, 1918. The laboratory was, however, at this date able to function immediately in highest efficiency. Its record under Captain Carver - and in his absence, under Lt. A. J. McGrail 19 is one of thorough equipment for any problem in its field and of great usefulness. On an average over 2000 letters per week were examined from July 1, 1918 to February 1, 1919."

SER RET

[&]quot;19. Lieutenant Colonel A. J. McGrail was the only member of MI-8 in Washington who later also was a member of the Signal Security Agency in the Second World War. From 1941 until his death on 30 April 1945 Colonel McGrail was in charge of all work involving secret ink and photography."

Extract from

"Brief Outline of Work Covered by M. I. 8 for the Year Ending June 30, 1919"

Dated June 30, 1919

"B.- That the enemy was using secret inks for some of its communications was known in a general way from a very early date. The first actual case that came to attention, however, seems to have been that of a letter written with invisible ink in Modern Greek and brought across the Mexican border in the shoe of an illiterate woman. This was developed by simple processes in M. I. 8, but many suspicious documents did not yield to treatment. Information of a general nature was obtained from the British and French concerning German technique in this field, and after much correspondence direct liaison was established with our allies. This resulted in the creation of the Secret Ink Bureau which discovered some fifty important secret ink spy letters that led to many arrests. The German spy activities revealed in these letters ranged from the establishment of submarine bases to the destruction of munition factories. An average of over 2000 letters per week were examined until the lifting of the censorship."