

Vance - see esp. p. 4 re

REF ID: A2918447 - the DIR's display center, & Spectrum ideas. Requires getting after [unclear] 7

12 November 1971

DEC 1971

*Charles*

14 Frank C. Austin *FX*

Mr. Austin

FINDINGS IN VISIT TO MARSHALL FOUNDATION LIBRARY

(Dates of TDY: 10-11 Nov.)

My main purpose was to find artifacts in the Friedman Collection suitable for the Director's display center. My main accomplishment was getting a bird's eye impression of the considerable value of the collection to our history program.

As to the artifacts, I found the ones I expected to and no others suitable for our display. The two: a Union Army codebook (pocket size) and a Civil War-style cipher disk used by the AEF.

I also found, as expected, that our wanting to use the collection, and borrow or withdraw items from it, may embarrass the Foundation by running counter to Mrs. Friedman's wishes.

Another finding: It is now settled that Roberta Wohlstetter will do the W.F.F. biography. - NOT TRUE

Description of the Friedman Collection

The collection's accession numbers go up to about 2000, but there are perhaps 200 or 250 missing (i.e. unused) numbers, and in another 100 or 150 cases a number is shown in the catalog but the item to which it is assigned is missing from the shelves, evidently having been given away.

The most logical explanation of the missing numbers (this is my conjecture) is that in going through his collection in recent years WFF many times consolidated two or more items under a single number and canceled (instead of reusing) the numbers thus vacated. For example,

all of perhaps a dozen letters, with numerous photocopies of Civil War items that I had sent him over a longer period, are filed under a single number.

The bulk of the collection is in an upstairs room that is kept locked. Some items--including the classified ones we contributed recently--are kept in a humidity-controlled vault. A few items (artifacts) are on display in the museum.

Perhaps half of the numbered items are books.

Only perhaps a dozen are artifacts--cipher devices, codebooks.

I did not see any correspondence files, although many of the numbered items include letters to WFF. It is unlikely that he wrote many letters without keeping copies of them, but if they are in the collection, they are not catalogued.

The catalog is organized in two ways--by accession number and by "author." The latter term is a very large umbrella; for example, I am listed as the "author" of the odds and ends of raw material I sent to WFF by letter.

WFF wrote comments about several hundred of the items. These are typed on 5-by-8 cards, filed separately by accession number. Mrs. Friedman added notations in pencil on many of the catalog cards.

A subject catalog would be useful, of course. The makings of one are present on the cards now in the catalog; on each of them the subjects to which the item pertains are noted.

Our Use of the Collection

I read the catalog cards up through #450 and examined 40 or 50 of the items. Before I reached #50 it had become clear that we need a copy of the whole catalog, and of the comment cards. This collection is perhaps as rich in material for us as is the Cryptologic Collection in 3C089.

Until this time, Dr. Pogue had not had a close idea of the utility of the collection to us, nor had Mr. Lyle, his assistant on the scene. We discussed inconclusively the problem of how our use can be effected without displeasing Mrs. Friedman. There are some points in our favor:

- (1) NSA assisted in the cataloging in its early years, contributing the full time of one person for several months<sup>or</sup> a year or two.
- (2) It was my car (and Mrs. Friedman has been informed that it was) that hauled the last dozen or so boxes of the collection to Lexington.
- (3) At a cost of many manhours, we (NSA) contributed a generous number of items to the collection. And many of WFF's Civil War items were provided by me.
- (4) The collection surely contains scores of items that the Agency contributed to by providing CREF information or L24 reproduction services.
- (5) Some of the items (e.g. Civil War codebooks) were, and a case could be made that they still are, Government property.

General Carter as well as Dr. Pogue is concerned about this problem. One possible solution, not yet suggested to them, might be a personal request from me to Mrs. Friedman. A better one, suggested to me by S.S. Snyder, is that we offer to provide by IBM listing a topical index in return for keeping a copy of it ourselves.

The collection is closed to all outsiders except us and Mrs. Wohlstetter, but for only perhaps a year and a half or so.

A request I placed for half a dozen items may bring this problem to a head fairly soon. These were: (1) the AEF cipher disk. There were three of these in the collection and I requested one as a gift to NSA. (2) One of the six Civil War codebooks. It is unduplicated in the collection (or anywhere else), but there are five other unduplicated ones. I asked for it on long-term loan. (3) a photocopy, one of several identical ones in the collection, of a cipher letter to General Washington from Dr. Benjamin Church, his medical officer who is now known to have been a British spy. (This would make a good little problem to print in Spectrum) (4) a photocopy of a Civil War message (also a possible Spectrum feature). This is duplicated several times in the collection, and it was provided by me. (5) a copy, one of three in the collection, of the book containing the between-wars articles on cryptology that appeared in the Signal Corps Bulletin. The Library may have this, but we could use another. I asked for it as a gift. (6) a copy, one of eight in the collection, of a short treatise on international communications that WFF wrote (and GPO printed) by way of educating the U.S. delegation to one of the between-wars international conferences on frequency allocations etc. This I also asked for as a gift. (7) a copy of published material relating to the battle of the Falklands.

I intended, but neglected, to request also an M-94 cylindrical cipher device which is kept in the Library vault and is

just rusty and worn enough to make it a much better display item than the mint-condition copies of the same device we could probably find within the Agency.

If we had a copy of the catalog, we would re-reproduce the cards in sufficient number to create a subject file.

In the case of some subjects, the catalog might reveal enough material to make a TDY to Lexington worth while. But in most cases we would be served well enough to get a Xerox copy of an item or items made at the Library and sent to us. The Library has a copying machine and the staff would not be unduly strained by helping us in this way.

### Some Particulars About the Collection

#### World War I

This is the period for which the collection appears to be richest in material of the kind we are after. The  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the catalog that I examined yielded perhaps a dozen WW I items that seemed to be new to me.

1. The Falklands material mentioned above consisted of magazine and newspaper pieces published in 1934, beginning with an article by an Australian Navy officer named Blakely who claimed that he read traffic giving Von Spee's itinerary across the Pacific and into the Atlantic. His disclosure was followed in the Australian and British press by one or two other claims (not Comint) and some challenges and refutations. WFF's note on this item says "A completely subjective and imaginative account of World War I cryptography"; but this does not destroy the story.

2. If the book 40 O.B. (by Hugh Cleland Hoy; London: Hutchinson & Co. Ltd, 1935; pp. 256) continues to elude us, perhaps we could reproduce the collection's copy, which is accession #424.

3. WFF noted that the AEF never used the primitive cipher disk (one of the artifacts I asked for).

4. Clue to the location of the Walter Hines Page MSS: Therelissa W.H.P. Library at Randolph-Macon (Ashland, Va.)

5. A name we should seek to identify: J. Rives Childs, "1st Lt., N.A.," author of several writings (some unclassified) on German Army ciphers in WW I.

*I know this name.*

#### Civil War

1. In The Friedman Lectures there is a sentence that promises it will some day reveal the background of "A Rebel Cipher Dispatch: One Which Did Not Reach Judah P. Benjamin." I had forgotten about this and will need to recover the article, which appeared in Harper's for June 1898 and is WFF's #240.2.

2. We should also get from L. of C. the magazine Signal for March-April and May-June 1954, containing a two-part article by G. Raynor Thompson, Signal Corps historian. There may be little new information in it, but it contains 15 or 20 photographs which we could get from Archives or the Brady collection once we knew how to identify them.

3. Federal ciphers in original handwriting are among the WFF items in the vault, as #'s 187 and 187.1.

4. WFF's #193 is a typescript, "Codes and Ciphers During the Civil War/Prepared Under the Direction of the Chief Signal Officer/20 April 1945/SPSIS-1." The "SPSIS-1" stamps it as part of the history produced in ASA. Do we have it?

5. In addition to the six C.W. codebooks, the collection includes a book of worksheets that belonged to William R. Plum, Army of the Cumberland telegrapher and author of the Military Telegraph history. These are messages that Plum wrote in his book before taking out the columns onto a message blank. It is part of the museum display.

#### Miscellaneous

1. There is a Charles Mendelsohn Collection in the U. of Penna. Library. A card index to it is WFF's #1544.4. We probably should ask for the reproduction of this index.

2. Possible source of artifacts: the Signal Corps Museum at Fort Monmouth, established 1962.

3. Another possibility: There is a "Rebel Cipher Key" in Ford's Theater, not part of the exhibition there (according to WFF's 1943 note). It is probably a wooden version of the cylindrical cipher disk. A letter concerning it is part of WFF's #193.

4. Still another: For a message to go with the C.W. codebook, we might ask for a loan from the McClellan MSS at L. of C., which contain numerous undecrypted messages.

5. WFF's 1923 Elements of Cryptanalysis was translated into German and a copy of it, obtained by TICOM, is in his collection as #213.1. (There is at least one other mention of TICOM, in Mrs. F.'s handwriting. Should this be expurgated?)

#### World War II

1. Some of WFF's and Signal Corps instructional publications were unclassified and are in the collection. Example: FM 11-35, Signal Corps Intelligence (pp.40), which is #270.

2. The Pearl Harbor material does not appear to be extensive. It includes the several 1954 articles in U.S. News & World Report; Gen. Miles' July 1948 article in Atlantic Monthly (pp.8) (#323), and Richard N. Current's article "How Stimson Meant to 'Maneuver' the Japanese" (#356).

#### Spanish-American War

WFF's file on the Roosevelt-Dewey message includes much more than the one message he used in the Lectures. It is all photocopy except his worksheets used in determining which cipher message equated to the plain text ordering Dewey to Manila. For the display center, we should ask Archives for the originals. WFF's material on this includes a couple of 1958 newspaper stories about the message and his identification of it.

#### Footnote

WFF's #364 is Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Chief Signal Officer (Record Group 111), prepared in 1952 by Mabel E. Deutch of the Archives. This book is still in print and we should get a couple of copies.

E. C. Fisher