

141 East 37th Street,
New York, June 2, 1922.

Dear Moorman:

After talking with you and Friedman about the question as to whether the Signal Corps should issue an up-to-date book on codes and ciphers, I am not nearly so positive that my standpoint is the correct one. I am writing to you at once about the matter as the Signal Corps no doubt will require a decision within a few days in order to get the appropriation before the beginning of the new fiscal year.

My strongest argument, I think, is briefly that most of the foreign governments are behind us in this science because, through generations, the people on the inside who knew the subject kept their knowledge to themselves, merely passing what they knew on to their successors instead of publishing it.

As I understand it both you and Friedman contend that indifference is the cause of the slow advance by other nations rather than lack of knowledge and that in any case Hitt's book is hopelessly inadequate and should be displaced with an up-to-date manual.

I have stood alone for so long on this question of secrecy that I am beginning to weaken and can see the force of your argument that unless the subject is taught in the service we shall find ourselves

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hopelessly behind again in the next war. But if it is the aim of the Signal Corps to teach their young officers the science of cryptography I am not sure that the mere publication of up-to-date text books and their present method of giving a few weeks instruction will bring about the desired results. If we are to begin publishing what we know of the subject I think that we should be very sure that we are to receive in recompense for this risk the assurance that the Army, through generations, will always have at its command a group of officers who are expert cryptographers. A good text-book and two weeks instruction will not do this.

If the books are to be published and instruction given I would suggest that a few of the officers who really become interested and efficient in the subject should be called to Washington once a year for a period of two weeks to receive further instruction, to report what discoveries they had contributed to the science during the preceding year and to receive assignments that they are to experiment with during the following year. Men knowing foreign languages should of course be selected where possible. The foregoing is merely a modification of Captain Manly's idea that reserve officers of M.I.8 who were interested in codes and ciphers should be called to Washington once a year for the purposes outlined above.

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Most of the information of value being turned over to the State Department from this office in any case is from codes rather than ciphers and it may be that my fears are unfounded. I think a fair compromise would be that the Signal Corps be required to show their manuscript to M. I. D. before publication and that we confine the discussion to ciphers rather than code, for after all a first-class cryptographer can soon be taught the principles of code attack.

Very sincerely yours,

Hoyle

HOY-jcm