

Lieutenant Prescott Currier, USN



Prescott Currier (circa early 1990s)

The initial major action after the U.S. and the UK agreed in 1941 to exchange information about cryptology was to send an American delegation to Bletchley Park. Since the U.S. Army and Navy had separate cryptologic organizations, the delegation was composed of two representatives from each service.

The delegation carried with it some items for presentation to the British, including documents about the U.S. effort, and, most important, one of the few PURPLE Analog devices that enabled machine cryptanalysis of Japanese diplomatic messages.

The senior U.S. Navy representative was Lieutenant Prescott Currier. He had been a member of the "On the Roof Gang," enlisted radio operators who were trained in collection techniques against the Japanese Navy; he left the service in the 1930s, earned a college degree, and returned to the Navy as a commissioned officer.

The delegation sailed in a convoy to Scapa Flow, the British naval base in the Orkney Islands. From Scapa Flow, they transferred to a British warship, with the PURPLE and other materials in a crate lashed to the deck.