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DAILY ENTERPRISE



(U) HISTORY TODAY - May 3, 2016

FROM: CCH

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(U) An ULTRA decrypt – WW II



(U) ULTRA (the codeword used for the product of exploitation of high-grade Axis cryptosystems) provided vital information for British and American decision makers during World War II. ULTRA also illuminated many side issues of the war.

(U) An ULTRA decrypt in the late spring of 1944 dealt with a pet peeve of General Albert Kesselring. He was the commander of German forces in Italy, fighting Allied forces up the Italian peninsula. Kesselring was a very able general whose strategy severely retarded Allied progress in capturing Rome and in liberating the rest of the Peninsula.

(U) In one message to his superiors, Kesselring complained of the demoralizing effect on his men of constant harassment by American war dogs in Italy.



(U) From left, General Albert Kesselring with two of his subordinates in the Italian campaign

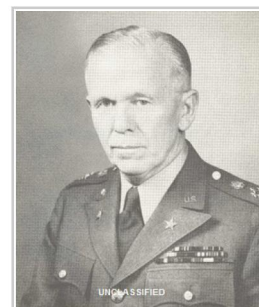
(U) This decrypt was included in the packet of ULTRA material sent to General George Marshall, the U.S. Army chief of staff.

(U) After reading this decrypt, Marshall instructed his aide to prepare a letter of commendation for his signature to be sent to the K-9 Corps --- without, of course, telling them the specific reason!

(U) To discuss historical topics with interesting folks, visit the Center for Cryptologic History's blog, [History Rocks](#) ("go history rocks").

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(U) General George Marshall, the U.S. Army chief of staff

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