

IN 1940, AFTER MONTHS OF EFFORT, A TEAM OF US ARMY CRYPTANALYSTS, LED BY FRANK ROWLETT, WITH SPECIAL INPUT FROM MATHEMATICIAN GENEVIEVE GROTJAN, SOLVED A COMPLEX CIPHER USED BY JAPAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE AMERICANS GAVE IT THE DESIGNATION "PURPLE."



#16 CRYPTOCOMIC  
"SOLVING  
PURPLE"

THE CRYPTANALYSTS KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR MISSION. THEY TOOK ONLY A FEW MINUTES' BREAK TO CELEBRATE: THEY TOASTED SUCCESS WITH A COLA, THEN WENT BACK TO WORK. SOLVING PURPLE WAS VITAL FOR AMERICAN AND BRITISH DECISION MAKERS BEFORE AND AFTER WORLD WAR II.