

Opening the audio reveals it's morse code. We can use <https://morsecode.world/international/decoder/audio-decoder-adaptive.html> to decode the audio. It will take a while, since the audio is 30 minutes long, so leave it in the background.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ARDENNES COUNTEROFFENSIVE, WAS THE LAST MAJOR GERMAN OFFENSIVE CAMPAIGN ON THE WESTERN FRONT DURING WORLD WAR I, AND TOOK PLACE FROM 16 DECEMBER 1944 TO 25 JANUARY 1945. IT WAS LAUNCHED THROUGH THE DENSELY FORESTED ARDENNES REGION OF WALLONIA IN EASTERN BELGIUM, NORTHEAST FRANCE, AND LUXEMBOURG, TOWARDS THE END OF THE WAR IN EUROPE. THE OFFENSIVE WAS INTENDED TO STOP ALLIED USE OF THE BELGIAN PORT OF ANTWERP AND TO SPLIT THE ALLIED LINES, ALLOWING THE GERMANS TO ENCIRCLE AND DESTROY FOUR ALLIED ARMIES AND FORCE THE WESTERN ALLIES TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE TREATY IN THE AXIS POWERS' FAVOR. XXGVXVVVXDVAAFGXFGGXXAGXFVGGAFAAVVADDVGDGGGVAAAGGXDFXXVDX XVVAVGGAGGXVVAVVGAVGFVVDVV BEFORE THE OFFENSIVE THE ALLIES WERE VIRTUALLY BLIND TO GERMAN TROOP MOVEMENT. DURING THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE, THE EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE HAD PROVIDED VALUABLE INTELLIGENCE ABOUT GERMAN DISPOSITIONS. ONCE THEY REACHED THE GERMAN BORDER, THIS SOURCE DRIED UP. IN FRANCE, ORDERS HAD BEEN RELAYED WITHIN THE GERMAN ARMY USING RADIO MESSAGES ENCIPHERED BY THE ENIGMA MACHINE, AND THESE COULD BE PICKED UP AND DECRYPTED BY ALLIED CODE-

BREAKERS HEADQUARTERED AT BLETCHLEY PARK, TO GIVE THE INTELLIGENCE KNOWN AS ULTRA. IN GERMANY SUCH ORDERS WERE TYPICALLY TRANSMITTED USING TELEPHONE AND TELEPRINTER, AND A SPECIAL RADIO SILENCE ORDER WAS IMPOSED ON ALL MATTERS CONCERNING THE UPCOMING OFFENSIVE. 42 THE MAJOR CRACKDOWN IN THE WEHRMACHT AFTER THE 20 JULY PLOT TO ASSASSINATE HITLER RESULTED IN MUCH TIGHTER SECURITY LRX09BF1W3QUKJP52M4ZDCHOSYIE6VG8NAT7 AND FEWER LEAKS. THE ATTACKS BY THE SIXTH PANZER ARMY'S INFANTRY UNITS IN THE NORTH FARED BADLY BECAUSE OF UNEXPECTEDLY FIERCE RESISTANCE BY THE U.S. 2ND AND 99TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS. KAMPFGRUPPE PEIPE, AT THE HEAD OF SEPP DIETRICH'S SIXTH PANZER ARMY, HAD BEEN DESIGNATED TO TAKE THE LOSHEIM-

LOSHEIMERGRABEN ROAD, A KEY2: SECONDWORLDWAR ROUTE THROUGH THE LOSHEIM GAP, BUT IT WAS CLOSED BY TWO COLLAPSED OVERPASSES THAT GERMAN ENGINEERS FAILED TO REPAIR DURING THE FIRST DAY.

Inside the decoded message, a few interesting strings appear:

XXGVXVVVXDVAAFGXFGGXXAGXFVGGAFAAVVADDVGDGGGVAAAGGXDFXXVDX XVVAVGGAGGXVVAVVGAVGFVVDVV

LRX09BF1W3QUKJP52M4ZDCHOSYIE6VG8NAT7

KEY2: SECONDWORLDWAR

Assuming the first string is a ciphertext, dcode's cipher identifier points us to ADFGVX Cipher, in which we plug the ciphertext, the 2nd string as matrix and SECONFWORLDWAR as key. We get DEFENDTHEWESTGATEOFTHEFORTRESSWITHALLCOSTS, which before using sha256 we need to convert uppercase to lowercase.

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