Vladislav Jirnov Assignment 6

Benedict Cumberbatch played a main role in ‘The Imitation Game’ as the Alan Turing in the movie. The movie was set during the Nazis and their special machine called ‘Enigma’ that made their communication impossible to break. Alan was one of the candidates for the job of breaking the Enigma and gaining all the information that Nazis passed along. His team was working on breaking the code manually which would have taken years to do because Enigma kept changing its own settings every day having 159 million settings, but Alan had an idea of building a machine which would be able to break the coded messages by Enigma in minutes. Alan Turing had somewhat of a bad life despite him being gay he was bullied in school. He fell in love with a boy named Christopher but he didn’t know that Chris had cancer and eventually died without returning back to school. This had an affect on Turing through out his whole life including the change in his thinking and the fact that he named his machine after Christopher later on.

Once Alan became the leader of the group when he asked the higher ranks for the funding of his machine, he fired half of his team and started looking for new team members who would be smart and fit the team in order to accomplish what they were suppose to. He made a newspaper puzzle and offered people a job to those who can complete it in under 10 minutes. After he got his candidates, he made everyone solve a similar puzzle in a room under 6 minutes which he said was impossible because he has done it only in 8. Eventually he hired a few more people who became friends with him and had a chance achieving the final goal. When Alan first finished the machine, it was not working but he then figured it out how to make it work with the help of his team. He almost got fired because his boss was against having him and really wanted him to fail but his teammates asked for extra time to test the machine and get it to work. They figured out that all the Nazis messages had ‘Hail Hitler’ at the end of every message sent and if they fill that information in, “Christopher” would be able to easily find and decode them because it would know what it is looking for. It started to look for frequent words that helped it decrypt the messages by Enigma.

All of the characters in the movie were facing many challenges. Like one of the main challenges for everyone was to work for Alan at first since he seemed strange and weird to everyone around him. Then 2 of the team members got fired by Alan because he thought they were bad at decrypting anything. Later on, when he hired Ms. Clark onto his team, she had trouble working for him mainly because of her parents because she was not supposed to do man’s job or work with men in general. It was expected of her to go work with other females as a secretary or something similar and only be around them. The expectations of the females were very low at the time and no one wanted them to do any of the important work. Once the team finally decoded the Enigma, they knew an attack was coming but they couldn’t tell because Nazis would have found out about the Enigma being decrypted and changed everything again to a point where it would have been impossible to decode. They decided to keep quiet at least for the first attack on their own ship but one of the teammates had his brother on a ship and it made it very difficult for him to be a part of that. As well as the Soviet spy that was working with Turing made him stay quiet because he knew that Turing was homosexual and would get arrested if that information was leaked.

Once everything was finalized and the Enigma was cracked, they decided to use it in a way that Nazis would not find out that their coded messages are useless. The plan was to only act on certain information but not all, just enough to win the war and not make Nazis suspicious. Eventually Alan was convicted for indecency of being a homosexual and had a choice to either go to prison or take medicine to cure him of homosexuality. He decided to go with the medicine because he wanted to still be able to work but the medicine broke him. I believe him and his team burned all the documents about “Christopher” machine and after a year of hormonal therapy Alan committed suicide.