Challenge 2A – Read on

TF KLHY UPJOVSHZ   
  
P RUVD OVD ZOVJRPUN AOLZL YLCLSHAPVUZ TBZA OHCL ILLU MVY FVB, HUK NPCLU FVBY WHZA LEWLYPLUJLZ UV VUL JVBSK ISHTL FVB MVY AOL KLJPZPVU FVB OHCL THKL AV ABYU FVBY IHJR VU FVBY BUJSL’Z ZAYHUNL YLXBLZA. UVULAOLSLZZ, DOPSL DL HYL ZAPSS BUZBYL VM AOL WBYWVZL VM AOL KVJBTLUA P AOPUR PA DVBSK IL H TPZAHRL AV YLSPUXBPZO AOL AHZR OL OHZ ZLA FVB.   
  
P TBZA HKTPA AOHA P MPUK PA HSTVZA PTWVZZPISL AV YLJVUJPSL FVBY JBYYLUA CPLD VM APILYPBZ DPAO AOL THU DL IVAO RULD, HUK ZV P OHCL AHRLU AOL SPILYAF VM KLJPWOLYPUN AOL ULEA JOHWALY VM OPZ DPSS TFZLSM, PU AOL OVWL VM YLCLHSPUN TVYL PUMVYTHAPVU AOHA TPNOA OLSW BZ AV BUKLYZAHUK OPT ILAALY. P RUVD AOHA PAZ JVUALUAZ DPSS UVA LUAPYLSF YLHZZBYL FVB, IBA P AOPUR FVB VDL PA AV FVBYZLSM, PM UVA AV APILYPBZ, AV YLHK VU.   
  
PU AOL TLHUAPTL HSSVD TL AV ZOHYL ZVTL YLTHYRZ JVUJLYUPUN AOL DPSS. AOYVBNOVBA TF WYVMLZZPVUHS SPML, P OHCL OHK AOL TPZMVYABUL AV YLHK H UBTILY VM MPUHS SLAALYZ DYPAALU IF TLU KYPCLU AV ZLSM KLZAYBJAPVU HUK P TBZA ALSS FVB AOHA AOPZ OHZ HU LUAPYLSF KPMMLYLUA MLLS AV PA. AOLYL PZ H MYHURULZZ DOPJO ZBNNLZAZ AOHA APILYPBZ PZ TVYL JVUJLYULK MVY AOL AYBAO AV IL RUVDU AOHU OL PZ AV WYVALJA OPZ YLWBAHAPVU. P OHCL H MLLSPUN AOHA APILYPBZ BUKLYZAVVK AOHA AOPZ DVBSK IL OHYK MVY FVB, IBA DOLAOLY FVB SPRL PA VY UVA P HT JLYAHPU AOHA FVB DPSS SLHYU AOL AYBAO PM FVB JVTWSLAL AOL JOHSSLUNL OL OHZ SLMA FVB.   
  
FVB ZHPK AOHA DL ZOVBSK THPUAHPU AOL NYLHALZA KPZJYLAPVU, IBA P HT ZBYL APILYPBZ DVBSK YLTPUK FVB AOHA H JHLZHY ZOPMA JFWOLY JVBSK UVA WVZZPISF WYVCPKL FVB DPAO AOL KLNYLL VM ZLJBYPAF FVB YLXBPYL. P ZBNNLZA AOHA FVB TPNOA MVSSVD APILYPBZ’Z SLHK HUK BZL ZVTLAOPUN TVYL ZLJBYL SPRL HU HMMPUL ZOPMA JFWOLY MVY FVBY YLWSF.   
  
FVBYZ,   
  
  
JOHYSLZ

Solution: Caesar Cipher (18? Shift)

My dear Nicholas   
  
I know how shocking these revelations must have been for you, and given your past experiences no one could blame you for the decision you have made to turn your back on your uncle’s strange request. Nonetheless, while we are still unsure of the purpose of the document I think it would be a mistake to relinquish the task he has set you.   
  
I must admit that I find it almost impossible to reconcile your current view of Tiberius with the man we both knew, and so I have taken the liberty of deciphering the next chapter of his will myself, in the hope of revealing more information that might help us to understand him better. I know that its contents will not entirely reassure you, but I think you owe it to yourself, if not to Tiberius, to read on.   
  
In the meantime allow me to share some remarks concerning the will. Throughout my professional life, I have had the misfortune to read a number of final letters written by men driven to self destruction and I must tell you that this has an entirely different feel to it. There is a frankness which suggests that Tiberius is more concerned for the truth to be known than he is to protect his reputation. I have a feeling that Tiberius understood that this would be hard for you, but whether you like it or not I am certain that you will learn the truth if you complete the challenge he has left you.   
  
You said that we should maintain the greatest discretion, but I am sure Tiberius would remind you that a Caesar shift cypher could not possibly provide you with the degree of security you require. I suggest that you might follow Tiberius’s lead and use something more secure like an affine shift cypher for your reply.   
  
Yours,   
  
  
Charles

Challenge 2B - A hellish, sulphurous haze

CUF YFRX CULC BDH ULA QFFY IZVJFA HI QB TZOZCLSB IDOZVF CSBZYP CD MDOHYCFFS KDS BDHS ODVLO SFPZTFYC KZOOFA TF RZCU ASFLA. BDH RFSF YDC LODYF, Z OLCFS TFC TLYB HYAFSLPF QDBX RUD ULA AFVFZMFA CUF SFVSHZCZYP XFSPFLYCX LYA TLAF CUFZS RLB CD CUF QLCCOFKZFOAX DK KSLYVF LYA QFOPZHT, QHC BDHS VDHSLPF XULTFA TF ZYCD EDZYZYP CUF KZPUC TBXFOK.   
  
LC CULC CZTF Z ULA DYOB EHXC QFPHY CD UFLS XCDSZFX DK CUF TZXFSB DK CSFYVU RLSKLSF QHC ZC RLX VOFLS CD TLYB DK HX CULC CUZX RLX L YFR JZYA DK RLS, DYF ZY RUZVU CFVUYDODPB RDHOA IOLB L VFYCSLO SDOF. CUZX KLVC RLX YDC ODXC DY TB FSXCRUZOF FTIODBFSX RUD RFSF NHZVJ CD OFLSY CULC Z ULA EDZYFA HI LYA CD TB XHSISZXF CUF CRD PFYCOFTFY KSDT MFSDYL TFC TF LX Z AZXFTQLSJFA DY CUF VDYCZYFYC RZCU L CUDHXLYA DCUFS YFR SFVSHZCX. Z RLX CLJFY CD L VULCFLH KDS QSZFKZYP DY CUF PFSTLY AFMFODITFYC DK PLX RFLIDYX, LYA DY CUF CRFYCB KZSXC DK LISZO YZYFCFFY KZKCFFY Z RLX XFYC QB CSLZY CD EDZY CUF XFVDYA LSTB XFVCDS ZY CUF BISFX XLOZFYC LC XC EHOZFY.   
  
CUF KDOODRZYP ALB Z RLX ZYCSDAHVFA CD CUF KHOO UDSSDS DK TDAFSY RLSKLSF. LC KZMF D’VODVJ CUF OFLA IZIFX OLZA DMFS CUF FAPF DK CUF PFSTLY CSFYVUFX UZXXFA LYA L TZXC SDOOFA CDRLSAX HX LVSDXX CUF DIFY OLYA. ZC RLX BFOODRZXU-PSFFY, L UFOOZXU, XHOIUHSDHX ULGF, LYA CUF FKKFVCX RFSF LOTDXC ZYXCLYCLYFDHX. MFSDYL ULA LYCZVZILCFA CUF LCCLVJ LYA TB DSAFSX RFSF CD SFVDSA TB DQXFSMLCZDYX DY CUF AFIODBTFYC DK CUF RFLIDY. Z OFLSYFA OLCFS CULC CUF MLOMFX RFSF DIFY KDS EHXC KZMF TZYHCFX QFKDSF CUF PLX VBOZYAFSX RFSF FTICB LYA CUF PLX RLX QODRY QB L PFYCOF YDSCUFSY QSFFGF LC LQDHC KZMF TZOFX LY UDHS. QHC CUF FKKFVCX RFSF KFOC KDS UDHSX LKCFSRLSAX, LYA CUF OFZXHSFOB ILVF DK CUF QZOODRZYP VODHA QFOZFA ZCX AFXCSHVCZMF IDRFS LX ZC ASZKCFA LODYP L XFVCZDY DK CUF CSFYVUFX LC OFLXC L ULOK TZOF ZY OFYPCU.   
  
CUF PLX OFKC TLYB XHSMZMDSX HYLQOF CD XIFLJ, LYA CUZX ZYVSFLXFA CUF ILYZV, FXIFVZLOOB LTDYP CUF BDHYPFS CSDDIX. CUDXF RUD RFSF YDC DMFSRUFOTFA QB CUF VUDJZYP VUODSZYF RZCUASFR CD QDFXZYPUF, QHC KFLS DK CUF CFSSZKBZYP YFR RFLIDY XFFIFA CUSDHPU CUF OZYFX LYA CULC IDXZCZDY CDD RLX XDDY ODXC.   
  
RUZOF DCUFS MFSDYL LPFYCX VDYCZYHFA CD CLJF DQXFSMLCZDYX LVSDXX CUF QLCCOFKZFOA Z RLX XFYC CD CUF SFLS CD FWLTZYF CUF XHSMZMDSX, LYA CD SFVDSA CUF FKKDSCX DK CUF TFAZVX CD LOOFMZLCF CUF XDOAZFSX’ XHKKFSZYP.

The news that you had been picked up by Military Police trying to volunteer for your local regiment filled me with dread. You were not alone, I later met many underage boys who had deceived the recruiting sergeants and made their way to the battlefields of France and Belgium, but your courage shamed me into joining the fight myself.   
  
At that time I had only just begun to hear stories of the misery of trench warfare but it was clear to many of us that this was a new kind of war, one in which technology would play a central role. This fact was not lost on my erstwhile employers who were quick to learn that I had joined up and to my surprise the two gentlemen from VERONA met me as I disembarked on the continent with a thousand other new recruits. I was taken to a chateau for briefing on the German development of gas weapons, and on the twenty first of April nineteen fifteen I was sent by train to join the Second Army sector in the Ypres Salient at St Julien.   
  
The following day I was introduced to the full horror of modern warfare. At five o’clock the lead pipes laid over the edge of the German trenches hissed and a mist rolled towards us across the open land. It was yellowish-green, a hellish, sulphurous haze, and the effects were almost instantaneous. VERONA had anticipated the attack and my orders were to record my observations on the deployment of the weapon. I learned later that the valves were open for just five minutes before the gas cylinders were empty and the gas was blown by a gentle northern breeze at about five miles an hour. But the effects were felt for hours afterwards, and the leisurely pace of the billowing cloud belied its destructive power as it drifted along a section of the trenches at least a half mile in length.   
  
The gas left many survivors unable to speak, and this increased the panic, especially among the younger troops. Those who were not overwhelmed by the choking chlorine withdrew to Boesinghe, but fear of the terrifying new weapon seeped through the lines and that position too was soon lost.   
  
While other VERONA agents continued to take observations across the battlefield I was sent to the rear to examine the survivors, and to record the efforts of the medics to alleviate the soldiers’ suffering.