Challenge 5A – Fighting Spirit

DISFL TSFXI GYJLT UGZAM SBBSF IZHHA YIYPJ ZLXIG MAFWE AFOFU HUGTU ZHIXX URIZL IINBX SUZGH TIRSB GUZTU GTUGH AFPSZ DUEUZ DIIDH UOIFU JGEAJ ZDTUY GIXEL SJRTH JBUZS LAZGB UFSLP OIPAZ DTUGB AMIFH ALAZH FAXHT IZBIF TSBGT UGDIS HTMSG ZAHHT SHAES LAMSF DOJHV JGHBA GGUOX PHTIF IGJXH AEEAJ XBXSP HUOIF UJGUY BXUIG HTSHH TIESO JXUGH GMIFI UZKAX KIDUZ YPUZV JFPSZ DUETI UGLAF FILHH TIZEA FHTIE UFGHH UYIGU ZLIYP IKSLJ SHUAZ EFAYH TIOSH HXIEU IXDUT SKISZ IMIZI YPHAE UZDSZ DHAEU RTHUG MAFID JFUZR HTIXA ZRMII WGAEY PHFIS HYIZH UZHTI EUIXD TAGBU HSXSH IHSBX IGHTS HUMAJ XDZIK IFOIS FSFYG SRSUZ YPZJF GIYUG GOFUH HSUZJ FRIDY IHAHS WILAJ FSRIO JHSXX OFSKI FPMSG RAZID UGGAX KIDOP HTIOJ FZUZR BSUZA EHTIL AFFAG UKIRS GZAMU EIIXS ZIMEU FIHTI SZRIF GHUFF IDUZY IOPJZ LXIHU OIFUJ GGSLL AJZHF IURZU HUZRY PAXDE URTHU ZRGBU FUHSZ DUTSK IDILU DIDHA HSWIA ZHTIU ZKIGH URSHU AZAEH TIESO JXUGH GYPGI XEPAJ GSPHT SHYPI ZIYUI GYSPG HUXXO ISLHU KIUZX AZDAZ GAUMU XXIYO SFWAZ HTIZI NHGHI SYIFH AHTIL UHPLA JXDUS GWPAJ HABXI SGISF FSZRI SLLAY YADSH UAZEA FYIUM UXXHI XIRFS BTYPH FSKIX BXSZG OPHTI MSPHT ILPBT IFJGI DOPHU OIFUJ GUZHT UGHIN HMSGD IKUXU GTXPD UEEUL JXHHA DILFP BHOJH GUZLI MIZAM WZAMH TSHTI MSGHF SUZID UZLFP BHAXA RPMIY URTHI NBILH EJHJF ILTSB HIFGH AOIUZ LFISG UZRXP TSFDH ADILP BTIFU LAZDJ LHIDY PAMZF IGISF LTSZD DUGLA KIFID HTSHH TUGHP BIMSG EUFGH OFAWI ZOPLT SFXIG OSOOS RIHAG SKIPA JHUYI UMUXX HIXXP AJHTS HHTIW IPTSG XIZRH THTFI IPAJF GGUZL IFIXP ZULTA XSG

Solution:

Dear Charles,   
  
Much is now apparent to me. My Uncle’s work for British Intelligence explains the gaps in his history, and if indeed Tiberius found himself caught up in a conspiracy beyond his power to control then perhaps his death was not that of a coward but, just possibly, the result of foul play.   
  
Tiberius implies that the Fabulists were involved in my injury and if he is correct then for the first time since my evacuation from the Battlefield I have a new enemy to find and to fight. I swore during the long weeks of my treatment in the field hospital at Etaples that I would never bear arms again. My nurse, Miss Brittain, urged me to take courage, but all bravery was gone, dissolved by the burning pain of the corrosive gas. Now I feel a new fire, the anger stirred in me by Uncle Tiberius’s account. Reigniting my old fighting spirit and I have decided to take on the investigation of the Fabulists myself. You say that my enemies may still be active in London so I will embark on the next steamer to the City. Could I ask you to please arrange accommodation for me? I will telegraph my travel plans.   
  
By the way the cypher used by Tiberius in this text was devilishly difficult to decrypt, but since we now know that he was trained in cryptology we might expect future chapters to be increasingly hard to decypher. I conducted my own research and discovered that this type was first broken by Charles Babbage. To save you time I will tell you that the key has length three.   
  
Yours sincerely,   
  
Nicholas

Challenge 5B – Hidden in plain sight

FIPYR YREBN IASHC NXMBI YCWGQ RKOXM KRCGG MNIZB IYUML QHGFM QSSLS RJYRB YRYXS SDTMC XMPVM YQDYV RIAGD LGXXF OEBWM PKPRI MUKWP OUSSV CNXMB INYVR DSAYQ KKRBO VBORL SWRYR URSRB EGXIB WIGXX FOIJO QCXXQ YJKIR CGXYC OYXHG DUSSG IVCZO GYWIY ZTYBI LDXFK XRRIK OXFYH QYJAY RBSXG YRYVT PYFYL MJSXG OWBOZ CVSNO HZIFY IIQSR URMAR MFKHZ OGMWI YNIND HSBML QQWGS PUSLG MLNJM BIAKW RSREM SSVHE SZCEW YMVSM MYVEB FELDE EOMLD LCDEQ USDMV WZXYX EJIWG CKJKH YCMUK WRYIQ MENOX FOLMB VMBWM PGFOQ GMEJG IYZSL CMRRM LURMG XFKXT KPCXX GXIYX HNBSR OYQRE BSRRO RBOHR YGJYM QDIPW IGXRY FEJSR ROPJS KCXGC SRMBH CBXMK ZMSHY XCARE LMIRR ERSQG QLRER AYZCB XFOMP NVCKH DEPQO GPOXZ EXRRI POPYD MMXWF STZOX UOILD LCKHK SVYVX WMSBO FPOEI SRENM TSWGY RGXVM YQDYV RIELN XFOEP WCBSZ GCMMX QGSFU KWAVS QOVRR ELDLC PEZEP GCXQR EBSQY QMLOH YXHRR IGXXC BEADM MXFCD ACORR RIQOE EORAS IQDSE OXFOV USXFW CDSIJ NIVZI PSILM IMXXF OGMXX GXILD QCKRR DLYDM UKWGX GPOEQ SREVC CXKYQ IBSRR RIRKW IYJZB IYUML QFYDX JOJGO PBKRB QIPWE LRMER GMWQY XHAYQ KERGM ERSSL CILMS SBEEO HZIXF OILQM LOIPC MLYYP SRABI YCMLQ PWCSN RMQDM AKXCN WGQRY VWSXM RGLMG IPOEB OTRKX GXXCB GCZXG XKROP CQVYZ LGMQC CWYQI QPVMW XFOJY BJGOP BCSDO YPYTC SXFBI UWCQO PDSRR YAMBO MXGCW SPOYL DMJYR CGMLD IPIAC NRCCH YIEDD IPXSM XMPOG CSZCN EKOWQ KKCDL YDKPS TNOHY XHFYV PSJGO HKORC GEQDL GCGGZ LCBAY CMBSH LYXFK ZCDMK OXMOR HYCKI XPSYK ZLGXH CMVWZ XGXKG DEQDL CZPYS RROBR BITOE JOHYM VGWML KPAYR QZMPK GWKXR RIFSK FOWRV ITOPQ SRZBM RSWFS RROPJ SKCXG CVIBL CRRID KFSVM QDWCF ILKWR RIDEP JRSPB SPYJK IMLFS JFIKO RRSRR RIGBW ARIKO AYCPY SHMEX ZOJMB IKOMA YYJNR MDXYU IGDML BINYV RSRED LCMSL CTGBE AIAYC MKZSQ CMZVI QSRAO MAYYJ NRMDF CCYPO AFYAY CMLFS JFIBO ZCXMD SGMEP BDVSC XQYQC YRCYY RCMBO SDFIP YRYDL CCIAE VGDCG XSSBY LSXUK WQYXG QLRDL YDMFK HLYGF KRAOX MDEIO ELIIT SHCXG CGMRR QCSVC KPGJI BDLYD MUYYJ NLYFI RYGMX GCKPK IHGCG MFIPI AFSPC SYLNI PDSMU JSBXF OVPOW CKVAR SDWCM GRGXX MDLCX IRGSP USDDV YSXMB WUSXF SRMEV GXXCV PGQIL MIQOV TSGCC YLPSP DYLKX CVCGG EQMPS WWWSR KIMLF IQDME KXGYR QKRBW CAKVC VIQCR CCWLO EPVCA YWRIS SISSB PGPIY XHWYY PBINE XYDMM XEKSW RKOCP SPGLG MLGME LXITO VDYVE SZCWC QOPDS GYXSL VCNBE WDLYD CMEAG VPZOE ZVIRY JMBKG FIKOM POGCS ZCNER OPCQV YWJPY QTOVM XEQEQ KYRGX KKOFY MORYC NBIQV EROVR RERWS LDLYC MPOEB SXGUR CGXFK XRRID KFSVM QDWFK HQYQC RSULI AYQCK AYBIM PQWSR ROVCC XGXXF OMPCI ABIRG SPUEL NMDEP JIFCV MCFIB DLYDM UKWZO MLQWC XXRYQ WNIYD LGXXF OXPOR ARIQS FMKVB OHRRI ZYERD SDVEL NIPCE LNWSB VMERB OHZIA CKVWC SJNMC BWPOX SBRGX KRYXF OJPYR RVMLO MREVL OHKIX FYYER XQDSD SRBSR EKAYI XMOBN YWCDL CPEZE PGCXQ ZPYXW

Solution: 3 letter keyword and Vigenere cipher

VERONA had decided to reassign me to a new code-breaking division in London, an outpost of Room Forty within the Admiralty. I was required to report to Commander Denniston who trained me in the elements of my new task and it quickly became apparent that the methods of conditional probabilities developed by Bayes, in which I had become adept during my work on wind forecasting, could give us a crucial advantage in the task of cryptanalysis. Glad as I was to escape the horrors of chemical weapons, I think now that Valentine and Proteus had intended to cloister me in Naval Intelligence in order to avoid any chance that I might uncover their dreadful secret, but the relationship between the Admiralty codebreaking division in Room Forty and the Army division MIIb was closer than the Fabulists had imagined and the interaction between these agencies, together with my field experience on the continent, meant that I was increasingly engaged in the task of breaking battlefield and German High Command communications. Encouraged by the engineers in our increasingly sophisticated signals unit, who were adept at intercepting telegraphic messages from the far fields of Europe, I threw myself into work once more until one wintery Wednesday afternoon I received a message that gripped and horrified me. New as this cipher was I did not have time to enjoy my triumph in decrypting it, as the plaintext revealed a criminal conspiracy at the highest levels in British Intelligence led by the Fabulists. Even as the full horror of my involvement in their scheme was laid out before me I could not take it in. Reporting the conspiracy was impossible since I could not be sure who was involved. Even if I could trust someone outside of VERONA the security in our unit was so tight that I had no chance to take any evidence with me. I realized that I would have to conceal my discovery while I undertook further research of my own into the network of traitors within our intelligence services. Unfortunately I was clumsy in my investigations and my carelessness nearly cost you your life and your reputation, a mistake for which I can never forgive myself. I can only pray that you will be able to forgive me. I received a telegram from VERONA summoning me back to Ypres later that month. As I read it I knew that the Fabulists had somehow become aware of my interest in their secret work, and I fully believed that I was being sent to my death in the trenches I boarded the boat to Flanders and, surrounded by weary soldiers returning to the front line, I turned my thoughts to finding a way to expose the Fabulists plans.