

M-HF

November 7th 1917.

Colonel George Fabyan,  
Riverbank,  
Geneva, Ill.

Sir:

I understand that the United States Attorney at Chicago consulted you regarding the deciphering of a cipher message in connection with the case of U. S. vs Jacobsen et al, and that you were very successful in deciphering that message. I shall be very glad if you could help me in a similar difficulty with which I am faced.

In connection with a case which I am prosecuting here I have a series of cipher messages which passed between New York and Berlin. I am anxious to put these in evidence in the case, but it will be necessary to prove the deciphering of these messages in Court. I am therefore writing to ask for your help in this matter. I enclose the following documents:

- (1) Copy of part of a draft message which, I believe, was sent from New York to Berlin about May 1916. I have been unable to obtain the complete message.
- (2) Photo of a message dated July 6th, 1916, sent from Berlin to New York.
- (3) Photos of messages dated 16th August 1916, 5th September, 1916, 27th September 1916, 25th October 1916, 2nd Nov. 1916 and 21st December 1916, all sent from New York to Berlin.



I also enclose copies of the translations which I received of these messages. These translations may be of assistance to you in deciphering the messages afresh, but, of course, it will be necessary to prove the deciphering in Court independent of these translations, in the same way as was done in the Chicago case.

As you will observe, these messages have been sent partly in a figure cipher, partly in a cipher for which a book has been used.

As regards the figure cipher, I understand that the scheme was as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
2	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
3	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
4	V	W	X	Y	Z		

According to the above code, the words "Police Department" would be written as follows: 32 31 25 22 13 15 14 15 32 11 34 36 26 15 27 36.

Now, to these numbers are added the following four numbers:

25 11 26 32

repeating the group of four as we go along, thus we have:

32	31	25	22	13	15	14	15	32	11	34	36	26	15	27	36
25	11	26	32	25	11	26	32	25	11	26	32	25	11	26	32
57	42	51	54	38	25	40	47	57	22	60	68	51	26	53	68

The last line of figures would be the figures that would appear in the cipher message, as representing "Police Department." Of course, in de-coding, the numbers 25 11 26 32 have to be subtracted.

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If this is correct then the sender of the messages must have been careless in writing his figures as one gets such numbers as 1 30 39 49 62 etc. These cannot be read off on the table. However, you will doubtless arrive at your own conclusion on this point and I mention this only in case it may be of assistance to you.

As regards the portion of the cipher for which a book was used, I understand that the book was a dictionary in which there are two columns to each page, so there will be a choice of two words to each group, the word appropriate to the sense was to be chosen. I have been unable to ascertain what dictionary was used, but the points I mention may help you to identify it.

I may mention that the case has been set down for trial on November 20th. I shall therefore be glad of a reply at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

United States Attorney



D-HF

Nov. 12th 1917.

Charles G. Olyne, Esq.,

United States Attorney,

Chicago, Ill.

Sir:

In connection with the case against Ram Chandra and others set down for trial on November 20th, it will be necessary for me to put in evidence certain documents which were made exhibits in the case of United States vs Jacobsen et al.

Would you kindly obtain if possible, the following documents from court and send them to me as soon as possible:

1: The note book belonging to Hiramba Lal Gupta, which was testified to by Mr. George Bornitz.

2: The cipher message sent by H.L.Gupta to Germany with its two envelopes, the decipherment and Price Collier's "Germany and the Germans", all testified to by Prof. Frederick Friedman.

3: The letter of credit to Wehde. The two checks given by Wilms to Hotz and the check given by Wilms for the cable to Manila, all testified to by Wilms.

4: The two drafts given by Jacobsen to Mr. Chatterji, testified to by Chas. E. Schloh.

Would you please also send me at your earliest

convenience, the following documents which were not made exhibits in the Chicago case:

- 1: H.L.Gupta's letter to his father in India.
- 2: All the papers found with George Paul Boehm when he was arrested in Singapore.
- 3: The original records of departures from San Francisco sent to you by the Commissioner of Immigration, Angel Island, San Francisco.

Respectfully,

United States Attorney.



M-HF

Nov. 13th 1917.

Col. George Fabyan,  
Riverbank, Geneva, Ill.

Sir:

In continuation of my letter of November 7th 1917 regarding certain cipher messages which passed between New York and Berlin, I have now been able to obtain the dictionary mentioned in the last paragraph of that letter. It is TASWELL-LANGENSCHIEDT'S GERMAN-ENGLISH POCKET DICTIONARY.

This will enable you to decipher the portions of the cipher messages from which this book was used, without any difficulty.

Respectfully,

United States Attorney.

N-HF

November 13th 1917.

Colonel George Fabyan,  
Riverbank, Geneva, Ill.

Sir:

In connection with the Hindu case which is set down for trial here on November 20th, two code telegrams have come into my possession which I shall be glad if you will decipher. They read as follows:

Sept. 20th 1916  
To Post Office Box 37, P.O. West 83rd, New York, N.Y.  
Grotesque everses from you corbiral dinemuro  
diveltava as my dibrucava retrodden solutig  
divico with admentior heckerhut  
Antonio.

Sept. 21st 1916.  
To Box 37 Post Office West 83rd New York, N.Y.  
Engambage dissetace thealies canada maru  
rigomagus propioris  
Antonio.

I understand that part of these messages can be deciphered by the A.B.C.Code, First Edition. Some of the words appearing in the messages however, appear in that Code with blanks opposite them. It may be that there was some private understanding as to what these words meant, or what is more probable, that the groups

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telegraphed, referred to other groups in the code according to some pre-arranged agreement.

Respectfully,

United States Attorney.



November 14, 1917.

Agent Wright,

Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice,  
Seattle, Washington.

Sir:

In regard to the "Annie Larsen" case, there has recently come into our possession a memorandum of H. Othmer, who is supposed to have been the W. H. Page supercargo on the "Annie Larsen" when she put in at Hoquiam, Washington, on June 30, 1915. You will recall perhaps that Page disappeared from the "Annie Larsen" on or about the 5th day of July thereafter and has been lost to sight ever since. The above mentioned memorandum which is said to have been one prepared by him for presentation to Von Pappen, includes among other items, the following:

Share expenses in Bothell.....	\$21.70
Beer to watchman of "Annie"..	5.00
Automobile to Tolt.....	5.00
Railroad fare to Chicago,	
including meals.....	67.00

Among the receipts there is included an item of \$250 on July 5, 1915. It would appear from the above items that after leaving the "Annie Larsen", Page went to Bothell and thence to Tolt. Will you investigate and see if you can get any tract of him at either of those places. It is apparent that

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somebody else shared his expenses at Bothell and we have some reason to believe that this person may have been one Alexander V. Kirchelsen, who may have delivered the money to Othmer that he received on July 5.

We have asked the telegraph companies here to make a search for a possible remittance of \$250 to him at either of these places. Another item near the end of the above statement is "suit case Seattle...\$5."

We shall appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,

United States Attorney.

AAA/J.