

March 2, 1943

Mr. Julian Hast
M. Marsh & Son, Inc.
Wheeling, West Virginia

Dear Julian:

I have yours of February 23. I received a completed questionnaire from John and sent it immediately to our personnel division. They call attention to the fact that inasmuch as he is in the enlisted reserve, and is likely to be called at any moment, it looked doubtful that anything could be done. However, they are going to write to him direct, and if the situation permits will try to enroll him in the extension courses.

The questions that you raise with regard to what he would do if he were called up, left me also at a loss. I imagine, however, that he may be able to indicate his preference and if he wishes to go into cryptographic work, he should choose the Signal Corps and state that he would like to go into that field. It is possible that he would be sent to our school at Warrenton, Virginia ultimately, after going through the usual processing of inductees.

In case you may come by this way don't fail to get in touch with me.

Sincerely yours,

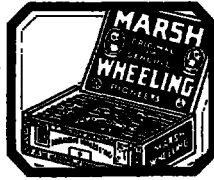
William F. Friedman
Director of Communications
Research

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WEST VIRGINIA

February 23, 1943.

Col. Wm. F. Friedman,
Director, Communications Research,
Office of the Chief Signal Officer,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

Found your very kind letter and enclosed questionnaire waiting for me when I returned from a trip today. I am sending it to John immediately and you will no doubt receive it from him by the end of this week. As I wrote you, he is in the Enlisted Reserve. In case he is called up within the next few days as expected, how will this affect his taking the extension course? Will he take his basic training first? Also is it advisable that he choose the Signal Corps as his branch of the Service when he is called up or can he do that later? I am completely at a loss as to the proper procedure.

I naturally appreciate the interest you have taken in this matter and know that this interest will increase if he proves himself qualified for your line of work.

Hoping to be able to see you one of these days,
I am

Cordially yours,

February 16, 1943

Mr. Julian D. Hast
H. Marsh & Son, Inc.
Whooling, West Virginia

Dear Julian:

In response to your letter of February 11, I think it would be a good idea if your boy, John, would enroll in our extension courses in cryptography. If he has some ability in the work I think there would be a good chance of his being selected for service in that field and I could facilitate that. This work would not take too much of his spare time at school and probably would be interesting to him in any case. Send him the enclosed questionnaire and ask him to return it to me after he has completed the data. I will then take the necessary steps to have him enrolled.

I am very glad to learn about the older boy and imagine he is finding the work very interesting.

We are both well despite hard work. Barbara is at Radcliffe and John is still in high school. With very best regards to you and Mrs. Hast, I am

Very sincerely yours,

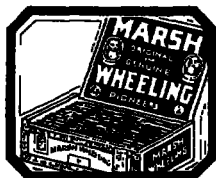
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WEST VIRGINIA

February 11, 1943.

Col. Wm. F. Friedman,
3912 Military Rd.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

Here is another request for advice. My younger son, John, now aged 18, is at Cornell, majoring in Chemistry as I did. He is in the Enlisted Reserve and expects to be called up soon. Last summer one of his friends was taking a course in Cryptanalysis and John helped him with it and became interested. He had an elective open this semester and decided to take this course. He seems to enjoy it immensely and says he is quite good at it.

As there doesn't seem much possibility of his using his Chemistry in the Army, it occurred to me that he might want to follow this line of work. I have of course talked a lot about you in the past and I think this got him interested in it in the first place.

The question I would like you to answer if you can is whether, if John designates the Signal Corps as his branch of the Service when he is called up, there is any way of being fairly certain that he could get into code work. Is there anything you could do from your end to help without compromising yourself in any way?

Our older boy, David, went through the course at Chanute Field successfully and has been a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Corps since November. He is at present an Engineer Officer in a bomber repair squadron stationed at Myrtle Beach, S. C. and has been doing good work. He expects to be transferred soon, we don't know

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Col. Friedman

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Feb. 11, 1943.

where of course.

I hope things have been going well for you and your family. Imagine you are working very hard at a most interesting job. Will be happy to hear from you and about you if you have time.

My best to you and yours.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julian".