

1 August 1944. File

Dear John:

First--my most sincere congratulations on your advancement to Brigadier. I learned of this well-deserved promotion only recently and found that your status has been elevated in some manner or other which was not made clear to me. I gather that Lt. Colonel Jacob had been promoted to Colonel and has taken over much of the administrative duties connected with the Military Wing, thus relieving you of a considerable burden of non-technical activities. If that is the case, I am sure that you will probably be much happier and better able to do the sort of work for which you are so eminently qualified.

*via Rowlett*

Your letter of June 26 came quite promptly. I am sorry that Geoffrey lead you to believe that I was put out in any way with your failure to write because the whole matter was cleared up when the much delayed letter you wrote me so promptly upon your return home finally reached me. Both Mrs. Friedman and I much appreciated your note and the one from Mrs. Tiltman.

We were all so very much charmed by the print you sent us and which will be framed in due course. I dare say you are getting a great deal of fun out of your mezzotint work. I wish I could do something like that, but instead I have been practicing a bit with our newly organized symphony orchestra. If I didn't feel so rusty on the violin I probably would get more fun out of it, and in the hot weather it is difficult to find the energy to practice at home to wear away the rust. Maybe the next time you come over this way we will arrange a special concert for your benefit; then you can see what sort of a poor artist I am.

Apparently Rowlett had a very excellent and profitable visit all around. I have had a nice letter from Denniston indicating his appreciation of Rowlett's visit and now comes word from you to the same tenor. I am looking forward eagerly to getting from him some detailed written reports which he is trying to produce in between hours.

I am also glad to hear of your high regard for Fried. We think him an excellent representative, but soon his turn will be up and we will have to do something toward either extending his stay or replacing him.

I wonder whether you got a chance to take a look at the tele-print cryptographic machine known as Converter M-228. We had a demonstration over here for some of your people and I understand that Bicher gave a demonstration over there. Travis has raised some questions about it that Geoffrey as taken up with us. I hope to get an answer for him today or tomorrow. I would also like to know your opinion of its security when you get around to studying the machine.

Things are moving along in fairly good shape here and I rather gather that the same is true over in your direction, although recently some fairly wicked things have been turning up according to what Rowlett and Fried tell me.

Joe Wenger told me some weeks ago that he thought there was a possibility of Eddie Hastings coming over for a visit some time this autumn. I for one would be very happy to see him because I would like to play a bit of golf with him. I think I could trim him now.

Please give my very best regards to all my many friends and again I offer my congratulations on your advancement.

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman.

PS I hear Tramm is coming over next month. Any chance of your being along? It would be so nice to see you again.