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26 July 1944.

Dear John:

Thank you very much for your letter dated the 28th of April which only reached me about a week ago. I rather imagine that all mail was held up for a considerable number of days.

When you were here you left with us a transposition device with the request that we look it over and report informally our findings as regards the security it would afford. The study was completed recently and showed that this type of transposition possesses a high degree of security, solution being dependent upon the occurrence of at least four messages in depth so that anagramming is possible. No solutions were effected on messages not conforming to this condition. From an operational viewpoint, however, the device impressed us as having several physical disadvantages as follows: (1) both encipherment and decipherment were slow and subject to error, (2) the device is cumbersome to handle and difficult to use, (3) the glass surface does not take ink, pencilled letters will not wash off, and the letters are at all times difficult to read, and (4) the blacked-out portions smear when exposed to dampness. Black, gummed, removable tape would be more satisfactory. Of course, some of these physical objections could probably be overcome and if you have some need for such a device in your service it might be well to go ahead with the development. Our people at present, however, do not appear to have such a need.

I imagine that you are having a very interesting time with lots to do under heavy pressure. The end, however, seems to be in sight at least in your theater. I hope that you were able to obtain some leave and are feeling well. I have been able to play a bit of golf and have been very well.

Please give my very best regards to everybody. Tell Mrs. Tiltman that Mrs. Friedman was very appreciative of her kind words and sends her greetings.

Sincerely yours,

Colonel John H. Tiltman,  
GC & CS.

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 07-16-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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