

SRH-038

A SELECTION  
OF  
PAPERS PERTAINING  
TO  
HERBERT O. YARDLEY

DECLASSIFIED per Sec. 3, E. O. 12065  
by Director, NSA/Chief, CSS

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Date: 27 July 79

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

*Handwritten notes:*  
M  
dis  
Staff  
C  
Comm

Herbert O. Yardley.

Born Worthington, Indiana, April 13, ~~1889~~ 1889.

Educated Eaton Rapids High School and Chicago University.

Knowledge of ~~languages~~ modern languages: English, German, Spanish.

Telegraph Operator 1907-1912, various Railroads.

Cipher and code operator, State Department, 1912-1917.

While at State Department compiled code; ~~proved~~ proved their methods of enciphering code obsolete and vulnerable; devised new system that has proved to be invulnerable; solved cryptograms - 4 1/4 years' experience.

July 1917 commissioned 1st Lt Signal Corps detailed to MIS to organize code and cipher bureau. This bureau increased from 1 to 25. Now ~~xxxx~~ in charge of two captains, two liepts. and 20 clerks.

~~at frequent intervals~~  
This bureau has introduced modern methods of enciphering code in the army: compiles secret tables for Adjutant General, Generals Porchins and Bliss, Military Attaches, and all Intelligence Officers.

Has proved that the cipher introduced by experts of the army to be vulnerable.

Aside from deciphering and enciphering official MIS telegrams and cablegrams, solves, without knowledge of keys, enemy and foreign cry to rams submitted by all branches of War Dept, State Dept, Justice Dept, ~~xxxx~~ Navy Dept, and Postal Censorship at New York and Panama.

~~xxxxxx~~  
Also working on German code messages intercepted by ~~xxxx~~ forces, France, ~~xxxx~~  
~~xxxxxx~~

*Handwritten notes:*  
Comm  
Accepted Commission as 1st Lt in U.S.A.  
26, 15, 1917  
Feb'y



WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

F D

A B C

February <sup>22</sup>, 1918.

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Promotion of First Lieutenant Herbert O.  
Yardley, National Army.

1. First Lieutenant Herbert O. Yardley, National Army, has been on duty in the Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division, General Staff in charge of the Code and Cipher Section since July 15th, 1917. This Section was organized by Lieutenant Yardley, who had been a cipher and code clerk in the State Department since 1912. Under his supervision the Section has increased from one to twenty-five persons, consisting of two captains, three lieutenants and twenty clerks. Under his direction modern methods of enciphering codes in the army have been introduced and there have been compiled secret tables for The Adjutant General of the Army, the Commanding General of the American Expeditionary Force, the Chief of Staff of the Army, our Military Attaches in foreign countries and all Intelligence Officers.

2. In addition to decoding and encoding official telegrams of the Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division, the Code and Cipher Section solves enemy and foreign cryptograms submitted by all branches of the War Department, the State Department, The Department of Justice, The Navy Department, as well as the Postal Censorship Committees at Panama and New York. At the present time this Section is working on German Code messages intercepted by the American Expeditionary Force.

3. Lieutenant Yardley has had special instruction in the University of Chicago and has a working knowledge of English, German and Spanish. He has performed his duties in a thoroughly efficient manner. He is brought into contact with officers of much higher rank and his own lack of rank tends to create situations of difficulty and embarrassment. By reason of the work he has done and is doing, Lieutenant Yardley is qualified for the rank of Captain.

4. It is recommended that action be taken as indicated in the memorandum for The Adjutant General of the Army herewith.

R. H. Van Deman,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,  
Executive Division.

1 encl.  
mr-mme

Colloco, Herbert S.

October 10, 1910.

From: The Adjutant General of the Army.

To: 1st Lieutenant Herbert S. Colloco, at Colloco, Washington, D. C.

Subject: Commission for Intelligence Duty.

In transmitting the enclosures herewith to the Secretary of War direct to you to advise that this commission is issued for service in the office of the Adjutant General, and you will be assigned to duty in the office of the Adjutant General, and you will be relieved from the service of the Adjutant General.

*Wm. J. Reynolds*

Adjutant General.

10039-299

WPD  
ABC

RETURN TO WADG ROOM 3210

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

WASHINGTON

February 2, 1918.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

The Secretary of War directs that First Lieutenant Herbert O. Yardley, National Army, Army War College, Washington, D. C., be commissioned a Captain, National Army, for intelligence duty and that he be directed to report to the Chief, Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division, General Staff.

This commission will be issued for service on intelligence duty solely and The Adjutant General will make such record thereof as will effectually prevent this officer from at any time being relieved therefrom and assigned to command of troops. Inform him of the purpose of his commission and that should his services be no longer desired for this duty during the war he will be discharged.

Wm. B. GRAVES,

Adjutant General, National Army.

RECEIVED FEB 10 1918

mr

Hurdley Herbert C.

March 7, 1918.

From: The Adjutant General of the Army.

To: Capt. Herbert C. Hurdley, Nat. Army War College, Washington, D.C.

Subject: Commission for Intelligence Duty.

In transmitting the commission herewith the Secretary of War directs that you be advised that this commission is issued for service on Intelligence duty solely; that you will not be assigned to any other duty or to the command of troops, and that, upon your being relieved from the duty contemplated by this appointment and your services being no longer required during the war, you will be discharged from the service.

*Richard H. Ferguson*

Adjutant General.

REC'D W. O. O. O. S. MAR 10 1918

005



100-356

10039

March 12, 1918.

The appointment of Herbert C. Yardley, as Captain, National Army with rank from February 23, 1918 is announced. He will report in person to the chief of the War College Division, General Staff, Washington, D.C., for service on intelligence duty solely and will not be assigned to any other duty or to the command of troops under this appointment.

A.C.

War College

Copy of Special Order

3/17/18

March 3 55  
ago

C o p y

First Lieut. Herbert O. Yardley

Army War College, Washington, D. C.

You are appointed Captain National Army for intelligence  
duty wire acceptance at once attention Room three six three orders  
issued directing you report to the Chief Military Intelligence  
Branch Executive Division, General Staff for assignment to duty.

McCain.

NH REC'D W. O. D. O. C. S. FEB 27 1918

# HOTEL BELLEVUE



TELEPHONE HAYMARKET 2981  
CABLE ADDRESS 'BELLEVUE' BOSTON

CHARLES A. WOOD  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

BEACON STREET BEACON HILL

BOSTON

Hope by now material is  
again arriving regularly - It  
took us some time to familiarize  
our selves with the T after  
having been cut off for several  
weeks

Very sincerely  
Hoyardley

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO HOTEL BELLEVUE  
NOT TO INDIVIDUALS

1918

SPECIAL ORDERS,  
No. 59.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, March 12, 1918.

*Extract.*

67. The appointment of *Herbert O. Yardley* as captain, National Army, with rank from February 25, 1918, is announced. He will report in person to the chief of the War College Division, General Staff, Washington, D. C., for service on intelligence duty solely and will not be assigned to any other duty or to the command of troops under this appointment.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

PEYTON C. MARCH.

*Major General, Acting Chief of Staff.*

OFFICIAL:

H. P. McCAIN,

*The Adjutant General.*

*Pres. Army War College*

REC'D IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR 12 MAR 19 1918



Order  
No. 119 }

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON,

May 21, 1918.

*Extract.*

\* \* \* \* \*  
Par. 17. Capt. Herbert O. Yardley, National Army, will proceed to New  
York City for temporary duty in connection with Intelligence work, and  
upon completion of the duty enjoined, will return to his proper station.  
The travel directed is necessary in the military service.  
\* \* \* \* \*

By order of the Secretary of War:

PEYTON C. MARCH,

Major General, Acting Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

H. D. MCCAIN,

The Adjutant General.

REC'D M. I. B., O. C. S. MAY 24 1918

EXECUTIVE DIVISION  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

in replying refer to

10039-299

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

July 1918.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF.

Subject: Officer for Intelligence Duty in France.

1. In paragraph 1A of his cablegram No. 1505, General Pershing asked that Captain H. O. Yardley be sent to France for temporary duty in connection with the solution of the enemy's code.
2. Captain Yardley is at present in charge of the Code and Cipher Section of the Military Intelligence Branch. He organized this section and is responsible for its efficiency. His services can be spared for temporary duty in France.
3. It is considered important that while abroad Captain Yardley visit the cipher bureaus of both the British and French armies for the purpose of observing their work and learning their methods of attacking codes and ciphers.
4. Action is recommended as indicated in the memorandum for the Adjutant General of the Army herewith.

M. Churchill.  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,  
Executive Division.

1 encl.  
hcm

In replying  
refer to

MIB 10039-299

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

July 1918.

A B C

10039-299

*J. Hays*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Subject: Officer for Intelligence Duty in France.

1. The Secretary of War directs that Captain Herbert O. Yardley, National Army, No. 1330 F. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., be ordered to proceed to France, via London and Paris, and report to the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for temporary duty as a military observer for a period of three (3) months, and that he be directed to return upon the completion of this duty to his proper station.

2. The Secretary of War further directs that the following cablegram be sent to General Pershing:

Pershing

Amexforce

France

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

For Nolan: Reference A1 your No. 1505. Captain H. O. Yardley has been directed to report to you for temporary duty for three months. March.

hcm

RECD BACK MIB, OCS, JUL 1918

8/1/18  
13. 29 1918

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

2001  
199  
#  
10137  
In future correspondence on this subject, refer to 201 Yardley, H. O.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
The Adjutant General's Office,  
Washington.

July 26, 1918.

From: The Adjutant General of the Army.  
To: Capt. H. O. Yardley, National Army,  
1330 F St. N.W., Washington, D.C.  
Subject: Travel Orders.

The Secretary of War directs as necessary in the military service that you proceed to New York City for temporary duty in connection with intelligence work, and that upon completion of this duty, you return to your proper station.

J. C. Ashburn  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

EAW.358



10039-299

July 29, 1918.

Major Grimprel,  
French High Commission,  
Washington, D. C.,

My dear Major Grimprel:

This will introduce Captain H. C. Yardley, Chief of the Code and Cipher Section in the Military Intelligence Branch.

General Pershing's Intelligence Section has requested that Captain Yardley be sent to France for temporary duty for a consultation on cipher matters.

Although it is realized that Colonel Nolan and his assistants can, doubtless, put Captain Yardley in touch with all French agencies which are concerned with matters of cipher, it has occurred to me that possibly a preliminary talk with you might be of the greatest value to Captain Yardley, and it is for this reason that I am giving him this letter and am asking that you take a few minutes of your very valuable time to put him in touch with the cipher situation as it exists in France.

Captain Yardley has built up a most excellent service here, and I am sure that you will enjoy meeting him and talking the matter over with him.

Very sincerely yours,

H. Churchill.  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,  
Executive Division.

hcm

10033-299  
...1.8

*July 29*

July 29, 1918.

Mr. Leland Harrison,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Harrison:

In a cable just received from General Pershing, Colonel Van Deman recommends that I be sent to France on temporary duty, and I expect to go very shortly.

As I have at various times pointed out in conversation with you, we have always been able to get all possible military information about ciphers and codes, but we have not been so successful in getting similar material from diplomatic and naval sources. Both the French and the English seem to feel that the Military Intelligence Branch has no right to such information.

Since, however, the Cipher Section of the I. S. is a central bureau of the State, War, and Navy departments, it seems essential that the representative of this section going abroad should have letters from the State and Navy departments explaining his official position and the desirability that he be given all material that might possibly aid in the solution of enemy codes and ciphers.

If this meets with your approval, may I have a letter, with Secretary Lansing's signature, to the Allied governments, which shall read substantially as follows:

The bearer of this letter, Captain H. D. Yardley, is the officer in charge of the Code and Cipher Section of the Military Intelligence Branch of the General Staff. In this capacity he represents the State Department. It is therefore requested that he be given access to all materials procurable through Diplomatic channels which might in any way assist in the solution of enemy codes and ciphers.

Very sincerely,

M. C. GURNEILL,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,  
Executive Division.

By:

*Delivered in person  
July 29, 1918.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON,  
July 30, 1918.

Order )  
No. 177 )

Extract

\* \* \* \* \*

Par. 25: Captain Herbert O. Yardley, National Army, will proceed to Hoboken, New Jersey, and report to the Commanding General, Port of Embarkation for transportation to France, via London and Paris, and upon arrival there, will report to the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Force for temporary duty as a military observer for a period of three months. Upon the completion of this temporary duty he will return to his proper station. The travel directed is necessary in the military service.

\* \* \* \* \*

By order of the Secretary of War:

PEYTON C. MARCH  
General, Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

H. P. McCain

The Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

*H. O. Yardley*  
Captain

BATTLE ENGAGEMENTS SUGGESTED *None*

MEDALS AWARDED *None*

WOUND CHEVRONS AUTHORIZED *None*

WAR SERVICE CHEVRONS AUTHORIZED. *Aug 15, 1918*

*Hoyle*  

---

*Hoyle*



WAR DEPARTMENT  
EXECUTIVE DIVISION, GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH  
WASHINGTON

# TELEGRAM

London.

Dated August 30, 1918.

Received Aug. 30, 1:15 p.m.

CODE.

Milstaff,  
Washington.

No. 540, August 30.

Arrived London August 29. YARDLEY.

S L O C U M.

rrs

018

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
LONDON.

FILE  
CHURCH LL  
COL. GEN. STAFF  
M. CHURCHILL

September 5, 1918.

From: H. O. Yardley, Captain, U.S.A.  
To: Chief, Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division,  
Washington, D.C.  
Subject: Colonel Van Deman.

1. You will recall your personal request that I make a special trip, if necessary, to see Colonel Van Deman. You may well imagine the agreeable surprise I had when I found him seated at a desk in Colonel Slocum's office. I have tried to tell Colonel Van Deman all that has happened during his absence. He smiled happily when he learned of the rapid growth of all sections and the manner in which his successor had steered the ship; his only regret being that M.I.B. cannot control the Postal Censorship. He is looking much better and is in good health.

2. I learn from him that he is to visit Holland, Portugal, Spain and Italy; return to France and study intelligence in the Front line; then-? He expects to be through by the first of the year, and hopes to return to Washington, not because of personal reasons, but because he feels that he has had a better opportunity than anyone else of learning intelligence work, and, therefore, belongs in Washington.

3. Both the French and British War Offices have opened all the doors for him - there is nothing that he wants that he cannot have.

*H. O. Yardley*  
H. O. YARDLEY,  
Captain, U.S.A.

29

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
LONDON.

*[Handwritten signature]*

September 5, 1918.

From: H. O. Yardley, Captain, U.S.A.  
To: Chief, Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division,  
Washington, D.C.  
Subject: Arrival.

1. I confirm my cable of August 30th, telling you of my arrival on the 29th.

2. Colonel Slocum and his assistants have done everything possible to make my mission a successful one. A desk has been fitted up for me, I have privilege to use the cars and have been introduced to the various heads of British M.I.'s.

HOY/ES

*[Handwritten signature]*  
H. O. YARDLEY,  
Captain, U.S.A.

RECORDED SEP 27 1918

ABSTRACT OF EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY FIRST LIEUTENANT H. O. YARDLEY  
AS MILITARY OBSERVER WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES ABROAD

1st Period in England							
		Voucher	Item	L - s - d.			Remarks
		No.	No.				
Aug. 28	: Luncheon			10	6		: State Cafe, Liverpool
	: Supper	1	1	4	6		: Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool
	: Lodging	1	2	5	0		: " " "
	: Tips			3	0		: " " "
Aug. 29	: Dinner			12	6		: Trocadero, London
	: Lodging	2	1	12	6		: Ritz, "
	: Tips			3	0		: " " "
Aug. 30	: Breakfast			6	6		: Piccadilly, "
	: Luncheon			8	6		: Strand "
	: Dinner			10	6		: " " "
	: Tips			2	0		: " " "
	: Lodging	2	2	12	6		: Ritz, "
Aug. 31	: Luncheon			3	6		: Trocadero, "
	: Dinner			10	6		: Piccadilly, "
	: Tips			2	0		: " " "
	: Lodging			12	6		: Ritz, "
Sep. 1	: Luncheon			8	0		: Trocadero, "
	: Dinner			10	6		: " " "
	: Tips			2	0		: " " "
	: Lodging	3		3	0		: 70 Comeraugh Rd., London
Sep. 2	: Breakfast	3		3	0		: 70 " " "
	: Luncheon			4	6		: Officers' Club, "
	: Lodging	3		3	0		: 70 Comeraugh Rd., "
	: Tips			2	0		: " " "
Sep. 3	: Breakfast	3		3	0		: 70 " " "
	: Lodging	3		3	0		: 70 " " "
	: Tips			2	0		: " " "
Sep. 4	: Breakfast	3		3	0		: 70 " " "
	: Lunch			6	6		: Piccadilly, "
	: Lodging	3		3	0		: 70 Comeraugh Rd., "
	: Tips			2	0		: " " "
Sep. 5	: Breakfast	3		3	0		: 70 " " "
	: Dinner			8	6		: Savoy, "
	: Lodging	3		3	0		: 70 Comeraugh Rd., "
	: Tips			2	0		: " " "
Sep. 6	: Breakfast	3		3	0		: 70 " " "
	: Dinner			10	6		: Ritz, "
	: Lodging			3	0		: 70 Comeraugh Rd., "
	: Tips			2	0		: " " "

Balance Forwarded 10 10 0



	Voucher No.	Item No.	L - S - d.		Remarks
Sep. 7:	BROUGHT	FWL.	10-10	0	
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd., London
:Lodging			3	0	70 " " "
Sep. 8:					
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " " "
:Dinner			8	6	Trocadero,
:Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
:Tips			2	0	
Sep. 9:					
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " " "
:Luncheon			4	6	Officers' Club,
:Dinner			6	6	Trocadero,
:Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
:Tips			2	0	
Sep. 10:					
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " " "
:Dinner			10	6	Savoy,
:Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
:Tips			2	0	
Sep. 11:					
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " " "
:Lunch			4	6	Officers' Club,
:Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
:Tips			1	0	
Sep. 12:					
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " " "
:Luncheon			4	6	Embassy,
:Dinner			16	6	Trocadero,
:Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
:Tips			2	0	
Sep. 13:					
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " " "
:Dinner			13	6	Savoy,
:Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
:Tips			2	0	
Sep. 14:					
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " " "
:Luncheon			6	0	Embassy,
:Dinner			10	6	Savoy,
:Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
:Tips			2	0	
Sep. 15:					
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " " "
:Dinner			6	6	Trocadero,
:Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
:Tips			2	0	
Sep. 16:					
Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " " "
:Lunch			6	0	Embassy,
:Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
:Tips			2	0	

Balance Forwarded 19-13 - 0

		Voucher No.	Item No.	L - s - d.		Remarks
Sep. 17:	Breakfast	BROUGHT FORWARD	19-15	3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd., London
	Dinner			10	6	Savoy,
	Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Tips			2	0	
Sep. 18:	Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " "
	Lunch	4		6	0	Embassy,
	Dinner			10	6	Trocadero,
	Tips			2	0	
Sep. 19:	Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Breakfast	3		3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Lunch	4		4	6	Embassy,
	Lodging	3		3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Tips			2	0	
Sep. 20:	Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " "
	Lunch			4	6	Embassy,
	Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
Sep. 21:	Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " "
	Lunch			4	6	Officers' Club,
	Dinner			14	6	Ritz,
	Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Tips			2	0	
Sep. 22:	Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " "
	Lunch			4	6	Officers' Club,
	Dinner			10	6	Trocadero,
	Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Tips			2	0	
Sep. 23:	Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " "
	Lunch			10	6	Trocadero,
	Dinner			10	6	Savoy,
	Lodging			5	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Tips			2	0	
Sep. 24:	Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " "
	Luncheon	4		6	0	Embassy,
	Dinner			9	6	Piccadilly,
	Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Tips			2	0	
Sep. 25:	Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " "
	Lunch	4		4	6	Embassy,
	Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Tips			2	0	
Sep. 26:	Breakfast	3		3	0	70 " "
	Luncheon			4	6	Officers' Club,
	Dinner			8	6	Strand,
	Lodging			3	0	70 Comeraugh Rd.,
	Tips			2	0	

Balance Forwarded..29-15 - 0

	Voucher No.	Item No.	E - s - d.			Remarks
BROUGHT FORWARD			29	15	0	
Sep. 27:	3	Breakfast	3	0		70 Comeraugh Rd., London
	4	Lunch	4	6		Embassy,
		Dinner	12	6		Ritz,
		Lodging	3	0		70 Comeraugh Rd.,
		Tips	2	0		
Sep. 28:	3	Breakfast	3	0		70 " "
		Lunch	4	6		Officers' Club,
		Dinner	10	6		Savoy,
		Lodging	3	0		70 Comeraugh Rd.,
		Tips	2	0		
Sep. 29:	3	Breakfast	3	0		70 " "
		Luncheon	8	6		Trocadero,
		Dinner	10	6		Trocadero,
		Lodging	3	0		70 Comeraugh Rd.,
		Tips	2	0		
Sep. 30:	3	Breakfast	3	0		70 " "
		Lunch	4	6		Officers' Club,
		Tips	2	0		
		Lodging	3	0		70 Comeraugh Rd.,
Subtotal - 1st Period in England.....			34	2	6	= \$ 163.80

NOTE:

010 = 1 2 - 1 - 8



ABSTRACT OF EXPENDITURES, OTHER THAN PERSONAL SUBSISTENCE,  
 INCURRED BY FIRST LIEUTENANT H. O. YARDLEY  
 AS MILITARY OBSERVER WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES ABROAD

1st Period in England			
Date	Description	£ - s - d.	
Aug. 28	: Porters tips and transfer baggage, hack to : Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool	6	0
29	: Transfer baggage Adelphi Hotel to train : Porters tips	2	0
	: Porters tips and transfer baggage London station : to Ritz	2	0
	: Street Car Fare	6	0
30	: Street Car Fare	6	6
	: Cab hire Ritz to American Embassy and return to : obtain information	4	4
31	: Street Car Fare	6	0
Sep. 1	: Baggage transfer Ritz to 70 Comerough Road	8	8
2	: 400 Sheets Legal Size Paper	9	6
	: 1 Bottle of Fountain Pen Ink	15	0
	: Cab Hire 70 Comerough Road to Strand House : (British Censor) to obtain information	3	0
3	: Dinner to 4 British officers (Ritz) to obtain : military information	8	6
	: Street Car Fare	78	6
4	: Street Car Fare	1	0
	: Cab Hire American Embassy to War Office and : return to obtain military information	8	8
	: Clerical assistance to make out reports - : 5½ hours (5/ per hour)	7	6
5	: Street Car Fare	27	6
	: Cab Hire Embassy to War Office	6	6
6	: Street Car Fare	2	6
7	: Dinner to 3 British Officers at Savoy in exchange : for courtesies	1	3
	: Street Car Fare	71	6
	: Cab Hire Embassy to British Censorship and return : to obtain military information	6	6
8	: Street Car Fare	6	6
9	: Street Car Fare	1	6
	: Cab Hire 70 Comerough Road to War Office to : obtain military information	3	3
10	: Street Car Fare	7	6
	: Clerical assistance to make out reports - : 6½ hours (5/ per hour)	8	8
		32	6
	Balance Forwarded	:14	-19 -10



Date	Description	L - s - d.
	Brought Forward	14-19-10
Sep. 11	Street Car Fare	6
	Dinner at Ritz to 5 British officers to obtain Military Information	114- 6
12	Street Car Fare	6
	Cab hire 70 Comerough Road to War Office to obtain military information	8 6
13	Street Car Fare	8
	Cab Hire Embassy to British Censor and return to obtain military information	5 6
14	Street Car Fare	1 0
	Clerical assistance to make out reports - 4 hours (5/ per hour)	20 3
15	Street Car Fare	1 6
16	Street Car Fare	8
	Cab hire 70 Comerough Road to War Office to obtain military information	8 6
	Dinner at Savoy to 4 British officers to obtain military information	93 6
17	Street Car Fare	8
	Cab hire 70 Comerough Road to British Censor to obtain military information	7 6
	Clerical assistance to make out reports - 7½ hours (5/ per hour)	37 6
18	Street Car Fare	6
	Cab hire Embassy to Admiralty and return to obtain military information	6 6
19	Street Car Fare	1 0
	Cab hire Embassy to Admiralty and return to obtain military information	6 6
20	Street Car Fare	8
	Cab hire 70 Comerough Road to Admiralty to obtain military information	6 0
	Dinner to 2 British officers at Piccaddilly Hotel in return for courtesies	61 6
21	Street Car Fare	1 6
22	Street Car Fare	8
23	Street Car Fare	4
	Cab hire 70 Comerough Road to Admiralty to obtain military information	6 6
24	Street Car Fare	6
	Cab hire Embassy to War Office and return to obtain military information	6 6
	Clerical assistance to make out reports - 3 hours (5/ per hour)	15 0
	Balance Forwarded	35 - 14 -6

Date	Description	£	s	d
	Brought Forward	35	14	6
Sep. 25	Street Car Fare			6
	Dinner to 4 officers in return for courtesies	117		6
26	Street Car Fare			4
	Car Hire 70 Bomeraugh Road to War Office to obtain military information		7	6
27	Street Car Fare			10
	Cab Hire Embassy to War Office to obtain military information		3	0
28	Street car Fare			6
	Cab Hire Embassy to War Office and return to obtain military information		5	6
29	Street Car Fare		1	6
30	Street Car Fare			8
	Cab Hire Embassy to Admiralty and return		5	6
	Dinner to 3 British officers at Savoy to obtain military information		81	6
TOTAL.....		46	19	4

£ 46/9/4 = \$225.44

NOTE:

\$10 = £ 2 - 1 - 8



VOUCHER TO ABSTRACT.

The United States

To H. O. Yardley, Captain U. S. Army

DATE OF PURCHASE.		DOLLARS.	CTS.
August 28, 1918 to September 30, 1918	For reimbursement of Expenditures as Military Observer with the Allied Armies abroad:  1st Period in England -  £ 81-1-10 @ \$10.00 per £ 2-1-8	389	24
<p style="text-align: center;"> <small>I certify that I actually was on duty as Military Observer for the time stated; that I actually expended these amounts; that it was impracticable to obtain receipts in all cases but where obtained MODE OF PURCHASE (see Para. 652-667, A. R.): they are attached.</small> </p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <i>Capt H. O. Yardley</i>                      H. O.                 </p>			

I certify that the above account is correct and just; that the services were rendered as stated; that the articles purchased were received by me, and that I have actually paid the amounts above specified for the purposes stated.

*H. O. Yardley*  
 H. O. YARDLEY  
 Captain, U. S. Army, Military ~~Observer~~

RECEIVED at \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 190 \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Military Attaché, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars and \_\_\_\_\_ cents, in full of the above account, which I certify to be correct.

(Signed in Duplicate.)

*H. O. Yardley*  
 Capt USA

DEPARTMENT.  
 in No. 329 D.  
 Approved by the Comptroller of the  
 Treasury May 24, 1913.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Unit and date \_\_\_\_\_, 1913

MILITARY OBSERVER  
 (Bureau or Office.)

H. O. HENDLEY, Captain U. S. Army, Military Observer, in account current with  
 (Name.) (Official designation.)

THE UNITED STATES from August 28th, 1913, to September 30th 1913

DEBITS.	Expenses Military Observer abroad 1913		TOTAL
	none	none	
1 Balance due the U. S. from last account	500	00	500 00
2 Recd from Capt W. P. Fischer, M.A.			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
TOTAL	500	00	500 00
CREDITS.			
1 Disbursements as shown by abstracts and vouchers herewith	389	24	
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15	110	76	
16 Balance due the U. S.	500	00	
TOTAL	500	00	

I CERTIFY that the above is a full, true, and correct account of all moneys coming into my possession on account of the United States during the period stated.

The balance due the United States of \$ 110.76 is held as follows:

On deposit -	LESS OUTSTANDING CHECKS.	NET BALANCE.
Wich Adams Express Cheques \$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Wich Cash \$ -	\$ -	\$ 2-4-10 (\$10.76)
Cash in office safe		\$ -
Otherwise kept (manner and authority for so keeping)		\$ -
TOTAL		\$ 110.76

Station Washington, D. C.

This is to certify that I have counted the cash and verified the net balance, excepting the depository balance, as stated on this account current.

(Name of witness.)

H. O. HENDLEY  
 (Official designation.)

023





CHARGE TO  
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT

Office, Chief of Staff.

Captain Manly.

WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

WASHINGTON.

October 11, 1918.

Warburton,  
Ambassy,  
Paris.

250  
For Yardley. Churchill approves your methods and plans and is pleased with progress paragraph Fischer says it is impossible to deposit funds New York. Has therefore today ordered Military Attache, Paris to invoice you five hundred dollars. Fischer requests that hereafter you give him two or three weeks notice for transfer of funds paragraph Interruptions have prevented sending code messages and data. Am trying to send them today. Manly.

M. CHURCHILL.

In replying  
refer to:

REF 10039-208

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

November 1918.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Subject: Cablegram to General Pershing.

The Secretary of War directs that the following cablegram  
be sent to the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces;

Pershing

Amexforce,

France.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

Captain Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A., promoted major,  
U.S.A., ordered continue present duties.

mr



In replying  
refer to:

10039 29 9

MD 10039-208

RECOMMENDATION FOR PROMOTION

Military Intelligence Division, General Staff,

Washington, D. C., November <sup>NOV 12</sup> 1918

From: Director of Military Intelligence.  
To: The Adjutant General of the Army.  
Subject: Recommendation for promotion of officer.

Pursuant to provisions of General Orders Nos. 78 and 85, War Department, 1918, and other instructions pertaining to the promotion of officers of the United States Army, the following recommendation for promotion is made:

Name Yardley Herbert O.  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

Present address c/o Commanding General,  
American Expeditionary Forces,  
France.

Present grade and organization Captain, U.S.A.

Recommended for promotion to grade of Major, U.S.A., for the present emergency, for  
intelligence duty.

To be assigned to \_\_\_\_\_  
(Not to be filled out unless change in present assignment is desired.)

Remarks Owing to the very efficient manner in which Captain Yardley has  
performed his services in the Military Intelligence Division, it is  
considered that he is well qualified for promotion to the rank of  
major. This officer is now on temporary duty in France.

I certify that a vacancy exists to which this officer may be promoted and that this recommendation is in compliance with all War Department regulations.

M. Churchill  
M. Churchill  
(To be signed by officer making recommendation or by duly authorized representative.)  
Brigadier General, General Staff.

It is not necessary to make out in duplicate unless retained copy is desired. This form will be used for all cases of promotion.

If there is any other officer eligible of the same grade in the same regiment, separate battalion or other separate unit who has a higher rating, there will be made under "Remarks" a full statement as to why this officer was recommended for promotion.

CCP 1151 10-10-18

COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL BRANCH  
GENERAL STAFF  
RECEIVED  
NOV 12 1918  
P42

MR

034



reply refer to:  
10039-299

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON  
NOV  
AGCa  
(100)  
November , 1918.

Office Chief of Staff  
MIL. INT. BRANCH  
NOV 29 1918  
WAR DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY:

Subject: Cable.

The Secretary of War directs that the following cablegram be sent to General Pershing:

Pershing

Amexforce

France

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

For Nolan. Direct Captain H. O. Yardley report Military Attache, London special duty. After performance return Paris before December 10th.

John L. Dunn,  
Colonel General Staff,  
Acting Director of Military Intelligence.

hiw

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE  
5, RUE DE CHAILLOT  
PARIS

Nov 3, 1918

Dir. Gen. G. Churchill  
Director of M.I.D.  
Washington D.C.

My dear General Churchill:

May I not have a moment of your  
time to tell you unofficially, & personally of a  
matter that has been on my conscience for some  
time.

It is of Capt Manly. I need not  
tell you his standing in civil life, for during my  
absence you have had many occasions to judge his  
scholarship, his intelligence, his valuable services;  
though M.I.8 plays a small part in M.I.D., its  
growth and efficiency has not been slower or  
less than other sections; and it is what it is

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE  
5, RUE DE CHAILLOT  
PARIS

because of Capt. Mealy, yet he has never  
been promoted.

Though officers in other sections holding  
subordinate positions are promoted to Majors,  
I realize fully that while I remained in charge  
of M18 you could not promote him until I  
was promoted which you could not recommend  
on account of my age.

But now that I am abroad, and as  
my cables indicate I shall remain abroad  
indefinitely, nothing, so it seems to me, longer  
stands between Capt. Mealy and the promotion  
that he rightfully deserves.

I write as I do because you have always  
encouraged me to forget your rank or his. Talking,

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE  
5. RUE DE CHAILLOT  
PARIS

to you and also because while with Capt. Mauley  
my esteem for him deepened into a very close  
friendship as I learned of his true greatness.

And I naturally feel a bit of the  
responsibility for standing between him and  
his Majesty which other men have, both abroad  
and in M.I.D., who neither now nor in civil  
life hold such important posts.

It is in pleasant news and Major Archibald  
is doing everything possible to help me along.  
My cable will keep you so closely informed  
of my progress or failure as my fortunes fluctuate  
from day to day that anything that I can  
now write will hold news before it  
arrives



AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE  
5, RUE DE CHAILLOT  
PARIS

I beg of you to accept the letter in the  
true spirit in which it is written and  
remember me to one who both admires and  
respects your greatness.

Very sincerely yours,  
H. D. Gardley

10127-29  
November 16, 1918.

My dear Yardley:

Your letter of November 3, with reference to Manly's qualifications and the appropriateness of asking promotion for him, has been received.

Although it is impossible for me to know intimately the extent of Manly's technical qualifications, I feel that I do appreciate them as much as any one could who is not himself a code and cipher expert. He has done most excellent work here since your departure and has succeeded in keeping up the high standard set by you for MI/8. This is a great accomplishment. Furthermore, he has maintained very satisfactory relations with the State Department. As a result of this, I feel sure that the code and cipher bureau will never be given up.

So much to indicate that I know enough about Manly to want to have him promoted. Unfortunately, the armistice brought with it an absolute cessation of appointments and promotions as well as hostilities. I must confess that it caught us napping. Certain promotions had gone through which were essential to organization. I felt that your own promotion as a chief of a section should come before Manly's, and I applied for it several days before the signing of the armistice, but the wheels of the gods ground very slowly and I regret to say that for the present, until the ban is lifted, there is little hope of getting it approved. It was my intention to ask for Manly's promotion as soon as I got yours. I cannot say that this outcome is particularly satisfying for either one of you; at least, there is no concrete result.

We have been much interested in the confidential reports which you have made, and have kept them very much in the family. Only General March and Mr. Harrison have been told about them, but General March, himself, has on several occasions shown the keenest pleasure and interest in your success.

I feel sure that you will be given very interesting work in connection with the peace commission. In my opinion, promotion is a small matter compared with an opportunity like that.

I am very glad that you feel like writing me fully and in an informal manner. Please continue to do so.

Very sincerely,

Captain H. O. Yardley,  
c/o Military Attache,  
Paris, France.  
hem

Label  
Harrison

1918 NOV 22

RECEIVED

mailed  
11/16/18

CHARL. O. Office, Chf of Staff  
GOVERNMENT RATE.

Gen. Churchill

10027294

WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON.

*code*

November 18, 1918.

Military Attache,  
Paris.

*317*

Transmit following to Captain H. O. Yardley:

"Secretary of War directs you report to General Bliss, Supreme War Council, Versailles, for special duty not later than December tenth."

C h u r c h i l l

For Nolan: Colonel Dengler has completed work here. Believe he would be useful in gathering information in enemy territory. Do you want him?

C h u r c h i l l

hcm



In reply to  
refer

Copy

November 19, 1918.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Subject: Cablegram for General Bliss.

The Secretary of War directs that the following cablegram be sent to General Bliss:

Bliss

Amsec

Versailles

No.-----

Paragraph-----

The following personnel now in Europe has been ordered to report to you for duty with the Peace Commission: Major Lawrence Martin, General Staff, expert in cartography, First Lieutenant A.A. Chenay, Signal Corps, filing and recording expert, two accountants, three proof-readers, three photostat operators, four library assistants, thirty stenographers, twenty file clerks, twenty messengers, four topographic draughtsmen and such translators as may be selected by Commander in Chief, A.E.F. Place this personnel at the disposal of Mr. Joseph P. Grew, Secretary of the Peace Commission. Captain H.C. Yardley, Military Intelligence Division, expert in codes and ciphers, as been ordered to report to you for special duty with the Secretary of War in connection with his duties as Peace Commissioner.

M. Churchill,  
Brigadier General, General Staff,  
Director of Military Intelligence,  
Assistant Chief of Staff.

2512-73

November 25, 1918.

From: Acting Director of Military Intelligence.  
To: American Military Attache, France.  
Subject: Expense of Military Observers Abroad.

1. A requisition has been made on the Treasurer of the United States and placed to the credit of Chas. B. Eckels for \$ 1,000.00 from the appropriation "Expenses of Military Observers Abroad, 1919".

2. This is to reimburse your allotment for the two transfers of \$ 500.00 each made to Captain H. O. Yardley, U.S.A. as directed by cable from this office.

JOHN M. DUNN,  
Colonel, General Staff.  
Acting Director of Military Intelligence.

C/cmp

By: W. F. FISCHER,  
Captain, U.S.A.,  
Disbursing Officer.

MAILED, M.I. B. G. S. NOV 25 1918

043

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON

December 2, 1918.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, GENERAL STAFF:

With reference to Requisition No. 4916, dated November 25, 1918, the Treasury Department advises that Warrant No. 17327, dated November 29, 1918, was issued, placing \$1,000 under the appropriation "Expenses of Military Observers Abroad, 1919," with the Treasurer of the United States for credit of Captain R. Ives, Acting Quartermaster, U.S.A., Financial Requisition Officer, Office of the General Purchasing Agent, A.P.O. #700, A.E.F., France. Issue of this amount was recommended by your office for transfer or deposit to credit of Major E.H. Warburton, Military Attache, Paris.

The letter of advice of issue of this warrant has been sent to The Adjutant General to cable contents to the financial requisition officer.

*John A. Seafield*  
Assistant and Chief Clerk.



# COPY OF TELEGRAM

Churchill,  
Dated January 28, 1912.  
Received Jan. 28, 3:00 p.m.

Genl.

Alstair,  
Washington.

No. 70, Jan. 25.

SECRET

I consider the establishment of M. I. 8 on a permanent peace basis most essential and believe that both Yardley and Lanly should be included, with Yardley as chief. In order to commission these men in the regular army special provisions should be made for acquiring proficiency in military subjects and also operation of details system and Manchurian law. In order that these specialists may remain in Washington and carry on their very valuable work I consider the above essential. No regular officer who has the qualifications for this duty is known to me.

The permanent rank for Yardley should be at

CONFIDENTIAL COPIES TO:  
Chief of Staff, W. P. D. State Dept. M. I. 2. Map Room O. C. of S.

least

P-17224

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
WASHINGTON

# COPY OF TELEGRAM

Churchill -2-  
Dated Jan. 28, 1919.  
No. 70.

least (\*).

CHURCHILL.

WARBURTON.

(\*) Omission. Correction has been requested.

CONFIDENTIAL COPIES TO:  
Chief of Staff. W. P. D. State Dept. M. I. D. Map Room O. C. of S.

P-17284 118

046

Office of the Chief of Staff  
Washington, D. C.

January 26, 1918.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Subject: Transfer of Officers on Intelligence Duty from  
the Officers' Reserve Corps to the National Army.

1. The Secretary of War directs that the following officers of  
the Officers' Reserve Corps be transferred, with their present  
rank and grade, from that corps to the National Army:

1st Lieutenant Herbert O. Yardley

2. The Secretary of War further directs that for brief, trans-  
ferred these officers be directed to report to the Chief of the War  
College Division for Intelligence Duty.

3. Their commissions will be issued for service on Intelligence  
Duty, solely, and The Adjutant General will make such record thereof as  
will effectually prevent these officers from at any time being recalled  
to the Officers' Reserve Corps to extend of troops. Inform them of the purpose  
of this transfer and that in case their services are no longer desired  
for Intelligence Duty during the war, they will be discharged.

Very truly yours,  
Colonel, General of Staff,  
Assistant to Acting Chief of Staff.

For original memo see 10000-213



Biographical Record of

Officers and Volunteers in the Military Intelligence Service - United States.

Name YAKOLEV ALEXANDER C. Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Commissioned July 19, 1917. Date Demobilized \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Military Intelligence Section \_\_\_\_\_  
— MI 8.  
—  
Profession in Civil Life Police Officer  
Home Address 1425 S. Dupont St. Washington DC  
Brief Mention of Civilian Activities  
— Police work reading  
—  
—  
—

Signature Y. O. Y. 11  
Capt USM  
Date Feb 25 1919.



CHARGE TO Office Chief of Staff.  
GOVERNMENT RATE

Lt. Col. Davis.

WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

WASHINGTON

April 4, 1919.

CODE

United States Military Attache,  
Rome, Italy.

241

Direct Yardley to hold himself in readiness to go to The Hague  
on special duty stop Necessary orders will be issued later stop

CHURCHILL

*W. J. Davis*

W. J. Davis,  
Lieut. Colonel, Inf., U.S.A.

MR

U. S. STANDARDS  
FORM NO. 16



10039-249

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
WASHINGTON

# COPY OF TELEGRAM

Rome,  
Dated April 5,  
Recd. April 6, 12:27 a.m.

CODIT

Milstaff.

Washington.

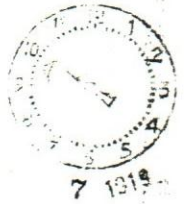
No. 543, April 5.

Yardley sailed from Genoa March 31.

This in reference to your No. 241.

M. I. S.

BUCKEY



Lt. Col. Davis

mep

reply refer to  
M.I.D.10039-290  
M.I.1-5

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

April 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY:

Subject: Change in orders, Captain Herbert O. Yardley,  
U. S. Army.

1. The Acting Secretary of War directs that Captain Herbert O. Yardley, U. S. Army, at present in Rome en route to the United States in compliance with Special Orders No. 177, Paragraph 26, War Department, 1918, be ordered to proceed to The Hague, Netherlands, reporting on arrival to the Military Attache for temporary duty, returning upon the completion thereof to his proper station; and that Special Orders No. 177, Paragraph 26, War Department, 1918, be so amended as to give effect to the foregoing.

2. The Acting Secretary of War further directs that the following cablegram be sent to the Military Attache, Rome, Italy:

Milattache

Amembassy

Rome, Italy

Captain Herbert Yardley is ordered proceed The Hague, Netherlands, reporting Milattache for temporary duty on completion thereof returning proper station stop Previous orders amended to give effect stop Advise him.

3. The Acting Secretary of War further directs that the following cablegram be sent to the Military Attache, The Hague, Netherlands:

Milattache

Amlegation

The Hague, Netherlands

Captain Herbert Yardley ordered report to you temporary duty.

bas

in replying refer to

M.I.D. 10039-296  
M.I. 5

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

April 1919

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Change in orders, Captain Herbert O. Yardley,  
U. S. Army.

1. In special orders No. 177, Paragraph 26, War Department, dated July 30, 1918, Captain Herbert O. Yardley, U. S. Army, is directed to proceed to Hoboken for transportation to France for duty as Military Observer for a period of three months and to return to his proper station on the completion of this duty. In compliance with these orders Captain Yardley is now in Rome en route to the United States.
2. This office has meantime been advised that further need for the services of Captain Yardley has arisen in the office of the Military Attache, Netherlands, and steps have been taken to hold Captain Yardley in home pending the issue of competent orders for the travel indicated.
3. This office recommends that Captain Yardley be ordered to proceed from Rome, Italy, to The Hague, Netherlands, reporting on arrival to the Military Attache for temporary duty, returning upon the completion thereof to his proper station; and that special orders No. 177, Paragraph 26, War Department, 1918, be so amended as to give effect to the foregoing.
4. Action recommended in memorandum herewith for The Adjutant General of the Army.

L. Churchill,  
Brigadier General, General Staff,  
Director of Military Intelligence.

Incl.  
bas

*Not used*  
*W.D. -*  
*Miss Smithson*

APR 7 1919

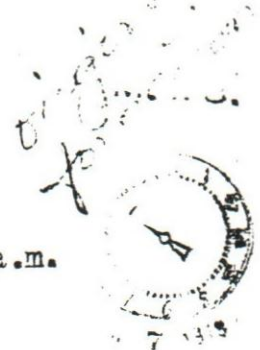
WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
WASHINGTON

# TELEGRAM

Genos

Dated April 6

Recd. April 6, 8:10 a.m.



Plain

Milstaff,

Washington

Arrive New York DANTE about April 22.

Inform wife.

HERBERT YARDLEY

mep

054







WAR DEPARTMENT.

Special Orders, War Dept. No. 121-0

WASHINGTON, May 3, 1915.

Extract.

Major Herbert A. Verill, 1st Lt., 11th Cavalry, will proceed to New York City for temporary duty as follows: He will report to his proper station, as directed.

The travel directed is necessary in the military service.

By order of the Secretary of War: PEYTON C. MARCH, General, Chief of Staff.

REC'D, M. I. S. MAY 26 1915

OFFICIAL: P. C. HARRIS, The Adjutant General.

NOTE.—Only one copy of this order is furnished. Additional copies required should be made therefrom. Form No. 801-4, A. G. O.—Dec. 23-14

Office of the Chief of Staff

LD

A.C.P.  
11/12

May 8, 1918.

Captain Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A.,  
Military Intelligence Division,  
7th & D. Sts. N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Orders issued today directing you proceed to New York City  
for temporary duty upon completion of which return to proper station. Travel  
directed necessary military service.

K E R R.

oh

Original delivered by Lt. Flanagan.

058



(Cir 248)

Circular  
No. 248

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, May 12, 1919.

TEMPORARY PROMOTIONS.

Circular No. 79, War Department, 1919, covering promotions for the period of the emergency within the United States and its possessions is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

1. Promotions will be made to give rank appropriate to command in the case of line officers, or to actual employment in the case of staff officers.
2. This relaxation of the rule with regard to promotion does not invite a departure from the principle hitherto established that promotion cannot be made merely as a reward for past service, however meritorious. The rule is relaxed only to permit the Army which remains undemobilized to be treated as a living organization, with such promotions as would be normal in times of peace to fill vacancies existing or as they may arise.
3. Each branch of the line and each staff corps and department will be considered as a whole within the United States and its possessions in computing vacancies.
4. Computation of vacancies will be made by the Chief of the Personnel Branch of the General Staff.
5. Vacancies in the line will be computed on the basis of the tactical organizations in existence in the United States and its possessions.
6. Vacancies in staff corps and departments will be computed on the Tables of Organization in force on November 11, 1918, scaled down to the degree of demobilization of that staff department in the United States and its possessions. In the case of staff corps or departments which have no Tables of Organization, the computation will be based upon the actual strength as of November 11, 1918, in the United States and its possessions.
7. No officer will be recommended for promotion unless the duty upon which he is engaged or to which he is to be assigned is commensurate with the advanced grade recommended, and unless there is no officer of appropriate rank reasonably available for assignment to the duty in question.

8. Recommendations for promotion will be made directly to the War Department as follows:

a. In the case of an officer on duty in a staff corps or department, by the chief of that staff corps or department.

b. In the case of an officer on duty in the Corps of Engineers, the Field Artillery, or the Coast Artillery Corps, by the chief of the arm or corps in which such officer is on duty.

c. In the case of any other officer, by the officer competent to forward communications directly to the War Department.

9. The officer authorized to make recommendations directly to the War Department, will in each case of a recommendation forwarded by him, personally consider the case, make a clear statement of the circumstances and over his own signature make answers to the following questions:

a. Is the promotion to give rank appropriate to actual employment?

b. Is the promotion a reward for past service?

c. Is there no officer of appropriate rank, within your command, reasonably available for assignment to the duty to which it is proposed to assign the officer recommended for promotion?

10. In addition to the vacancies as computed by the Chief of the Personnel Branch, a vacancy to which a promotion may be made may be considered to exist in any grade where the interests of the United States make such a promotion absolutely necessary. Such a case will be rare, but may be considered to exist under the following circumstances:

a. A marked increase in the amount of work handled.

b. A consolidation of groups reducing the total number of officers employed, but increasing the responsibility of individuals available to do the work.

c. Discharge of a senior officer and assumption of his duty by a junior, when it is found, after personal investigation, to be impracticable to transfer an officer of suitable rank for the work.

d. Readjustment of rank due to new duties or new organization.

This authority is not intended as a measure for correcting inequalities in promotion as between individuals, or as between arms of the line and staff corps and departments, which existed before the armistice,

nor to promote merely as a reward for past services; but it is granted solely for the purpose of furthering the interests of the Government by giving to an officer the rank necessary to enable him to discharge his duties. When emergency officers are discharged, the vacancy so created should be filled by transfer, if practicable, and by an officer of the Regular Army. A recommendation to fill the vacancy by promotion will be resorted to only in case it is impracticable to fill the vacancy by transfer. Officers will as far as practicable avoid making recommendations for the promotion of officers who are soon to be discharged or who, for any other reason are soon to be relieved from their duties.

11. Recommendations for promotion in the line or staff which comply strictly with these instructions may be submitted, after personal investigation by responsible officers.

12. No promotion will be made without the personal approval of the Secretary of War.  
(210.2, A.G.O.)

By order of the Secretary of War:

PEYTON C. MARCH,  
General, Chief of Staff.

Official:

J. T. KERR,  
Adjutant General.



EXECUTIVE DIVISION  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

In replying refer to

1093-20

M. I. 8

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF.

Subject: Permanent Organization for Code  
and Cipher Investigation and  
Attack.

1. Herewith is transmitted a memorandum embodying a plan for a permanent organization for code and cipher work to be maintained by joint annual appropriation of \$60,000.00 by the Military Intelligence Division and of \$40,000.00 by the Department of State and to be controlled by the Director of M. I. D.

2. The Acting Secretary of State has been consulted and concurs in the proposed plan.

3. Authority is requested for the establishment and maintenance of the organization proposed and for the annual expenditure for this purpose by the Director of M. I. D. on confidential memorandum of \$60,000.00 of funds pertaining to "Contingency Military Intelligence Division, General Staff."

*M. Churchill*  
M. Churchill,  
Brigadier General, General Staff,  
Director of Military Intelligence.

MAY 17 1919

*Initials of  
F. K. Paetz  
Acting Secretary of State*

MAY 17 1919



May 22, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN MCCARRON. ✓

1. Captain John B. Trevor, Intelligence Officer of New York, has telephoned Captain Yardley that it will be necessary for Captain Yardley to attend the trial of Robinson.
2. Telegram providing for the necessary travel orders attached herewith.

*John B. Manly*  
John B. Manly  
Captain, U. S. A.

1 enc.  
mev

*Col Campbell*  
*Yardley in leaving of room*  
*2008*

May 21, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL CAMPBELL:

Subject: Recommendations for the Promotion of Officers.

1. It is recommended that the following officers of the Positive Branch of the Military Intelligence Division be promoted for the reasons as set forth in each case.

First: Captain H. O. Yardley, U.S. Army. 299 ✓

Captain Yardley is the Chief of a ~~sub~~ section in the Positive Branch, namely, M.I.S., Codes and Ciphers. As the Chief of that section he is called upon to perform duties that are incident to and require a higher rank. These duties are executive and administrative in nature, as well as duties that pertain to the solution of codes and ciphers both foreign and domestic. In the United States there are only six persons, who by knowledge and training, are capable of performing the duties of this officer.

He is recommended for promotion to the grade of major, and there is no other officer of like rank in the army available for the detail.

Second: Captain John M. Manly, U.S. Army. 218 ✓

The duties performed by Captain Manly are those of the assistant to the Chief of M.I.S., the Code and Cipher Sub-Section of the Positive Branch. These duties are of such a nature as to require this officer to actively superintend and supervise the work and operations of other officers and civilians. As in the case of Captain Yardley above, Captain Manly is one of six experts in the United States who are capable of handling the particular line of work in which he is engaged.

It is recommended that he be promoted to the grade of major, and there is no other officer within the army who is available or capable of performing his duties.

H. 2  
*John M. Denny*  
JOHN M. DENNY  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Positive Branch.

JVK

Note: - Some recommendations from M.I.S. are in course of preparation and will be sent up later. JVD

Office of the Chief of Staff.

MIB

5/22

May 22, 1919.

Captain Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A.,  
Military Intelligence Division,  
7th & B. Sts. N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Orders issued today directing you to proceed to New York  
City for temporary duty upon completion of which return to proper station.  
Travel directed necessary military service.

X V R R.

sh

Original delivered by Lieut. Flanagan.

065

MID 10039-299

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

MAY 31 1919

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF.

Subject: Promotion of Captain Herbert O.  
Yardley, U.S.A.

1. It is recommended that Captain Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A., on duty with the Military Intelligence Division, be promoted to Major, U.S.A., for intelligence duty.

2. The proposed promotion is to give rank appropriate to actual employment and is not recommended as a reward for past services. No officer of appropriate rank within the Division is reasonably available for assignment to the duty proposed.

3. Captain Yardley is the chief of a section in the Positive Branch, Military Intelligence Division, having to do with Codes and Ciphers. As the Chief of that section he is called upon to perform duties that are incident to and require a higher rank. These duties are executive and administrative in nature, as well as duties that pertain to the solution of codes and ciphers both foreign and domestic. In the United States there are only six persons, who by knowledge and training, are capable of performing the duties of this officer.

M. CHURCHILL  
Brigadier General, General Staff  
Director of Military Intelligence.

MR

RECEIVED, M. I. D. DIVISION, MAY 17 1919



WAR DEPARTMENT  
Office of the Chief of Staff  
Washington.

June 7, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION,  
GENERAL STAFF:

Subject: Recommendations for promotion.

1. The attached recommendations for promotion are returned with the request that this office be informed as to whether or not the responsibilities and duties of these officers recommended for promotion have been recently increased.

2. Information is also desired as to whether the Military Intelligence Division is not in general reducing its organization to such an extent that promotions should cease.

HENRY JERVEY,  
Major General, General Staff,  
Assistant to the Chief of Staff,  
Director of Operation.

4 incs.

F. E., G. S., 201 (Moore, John S.)  
" " " (Mitchell, Leonard H.)  
" " " (Pratt, Henry G.)  
" " " (Yardley, Herbert C.)

June 11, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, GENERAL STAFF.

Subject: Recommendations for Promotion.

1. Referring to your memorandum, dated June 7, on this subject, you are informed that in the cases of the four officers referred to, Captains ~~Morse~~, Mitchell, Pratt and Yardley, their responsibilities and duties have been recently increased. The reduction in the personnel of the Military Intelligence Division has in the cases of the officers concerned tended to increase their duties and responsibilities.

2. With the exception of the promotion of Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Mason, the promotions recommended on May 31, are the only ones recommended in this Division since the Armistice. No others are contemplated; but as the future requirements cannot be foreseen, it is not believed desirable to announce that all promotions have ceased.

M. Churchill  
Brigadier-General, General Staff,  
Director of Military Intelligence.

hcm

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Washington, June 17, 1919.

Special Orders)  
No. 141-F )

EXTRACT.

Par. 8, The appointments on June 13, 1919, of the following named officers, United States Army, for the period of the existing emergency, with rank from June 13, 1919, are announced:

To be Majors, United States Army.

Capt. Lennard H. Mitchell  
Capt. Henry G. Pratt  
Capt. Herbert O. Yardley ✓  
Capt. John Stanley Moore

By order of the Secretary of War:

PEYTON C. MARCH,  
General, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

P. C. HARRIS,  
The Adjutant General.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

is routing refer to

6034-2-1

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Subject: Travel Orders.

It is requested that travel orders be issued directing Major Herbert O. Karley, U. S. A., on duty in this office, to proceed to New York City on or about July 8, 1919, for temporary duty, returning upon completion of this duty to proper station.

A. G. Campbell,  
Lieut. Colonel, General Staff,  
Executive Assistant.

oh

*W. J. Martin*

070



10024.207

OFFICIALS, }  
OFFERS. 423, ROP/GF/MSB WAR DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON,

No.

The following named officers shall proceed to New York City, and report  
to the Intelligence Officer for duty. July 18, 1919

- Major Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A.
- Captain Charles J. Muncelsohn, U.S.A.
- 2nd Lt. Henry B. Learned, Corps of Interpreters.

The travel directed is necessary in the military service.

By order of the Secretary of War:

PEYTON C. MARCH,  
General, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:  
P. C. HARRIS,  
The Adjutant General.

Note - Only one copy of this order is furnished. Additional copies required should be made therefrom.



CHARGE Office Chief of Staff.  
GOV. NMI RAT

M. I. D.

10039-299.

WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

WASHINGTON.

August 7, 1919.

Major Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A.,  
3 East 38th Street,  
New York City.

Orders issue today directing you proceed Washington, D.C.,  
and report Director Military Intelligence Division, Monday  
August Eleventh, for temporary duty in connection with  
Military Intelligence, upon completion of which return to  
proper station. Travel directed necessary military ser-  
vice.

HARRIS.

10039

W. D. STANDARD  
FORM NO. 12.

073

100 27 70

Serial Orders,

No. 184-0

WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON,

RGZ/fls/423.

August 7, 1919.

Extract.

Major Herbert O. Yardley, United States Army, will repair to this city and report in person on Monday, August 11, 1919, to the Director, Military Intelligence Division, for temporary duty, and upon the completion thereof will return to his proper station.

NOTED:  
A. G. CAMPBELL.

The travel directed is necessary in the military service.

By order of the Secretary of War:

PEYTON C. MARCH,  
*General, Chief of Staff.*

OFFICIAL:

P. C. HARRIS,  
*The Adjutant General.*

NOTE.—Only one copy of this order is furnished. Additional copies required should be made therefrom.  
Form No. 891-4, A. G. O.—Dec 23-18



CHARGE TO Office of Chief of Staff.  
GOVERNMENT RATE

Col. John A. Dumm  
Chief, Positive Br.

WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

WASHINGTON.

August 8, 1919.

PLAIN

Major M. G. Yardley,  
3 East 38th Street,  
New York City.

Travel orders issued directing you report Washington on Monday.  
It is necessary that we confer with you on earlier date.  
Report on Saturday instead of Monday.

CHURCHILL

.....  
Colonel, General Staff.

jkx

NOTED:  
M. CHURCHILL

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
WASHINGTON

# COPY OF TELEGRAM

New York, N. Y.  
Dated August 8, 1919.  
Recd. August 9, 9:05 a.m.

PLAIN

General Churchill,

Military Intelligence Division,

Washington.

Yardley not here. Effort being made to locate  
him.

L E A R N E D

bbm

676

Special Orders, 183/1919/423  
WAR DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, August 12, 1919

No. 183-0

Extract.

Major Herbert O. Yardley, United States Army, will repair immediately to this city and report to the Director of Military Intelligence for temporary duty in connection with Military Intelligence and upon the completion thereof will return to his proper station.

NOTED  
A. C. CAMPBELL

The travel directed is necessary in the military service.

By order of the Secretary of War:

OFFICIAL:

P. C. HARRIS,

*The Adjutant General.*

PEYTON C. MARCH,  
*General, Chief of Staff.*

NOTE.—Only one copy of this order is furnished. Additional copies required should be made therefrom.

Form No. 601-4, A. G. O.—Dec. 23-18

Sec, Chief of Staff

M D  
E.P.C./

August 12, 1919.

Major Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A.,  
43 East 38th St., New York City.

Orders issued directing you proceed immediately to Washington D.C., and report Director of Military Intelligence for temporary duty in connection with Military Intelligence upon completion of which return to proper station. Travel directed is necessary in the military service.

HARRIS

rea

Original delivered by Captain Flanigan.



Special Orders,  
No. 181-C

1178. 453. 33 / 1004 / 1002

WAR DEPARTMENT.

27 DECEMBER

WASHINGTON,

Extract.

Nov. 14, 1919.

Major Herbert C. Farley, U.S. Army, will proceed from New York City to Chicago, Ill., via Washington, and return to New York City via Washington, on temporary duty in connection with military intelligence, and upon the completion of this duty will return to his proper station.

The travel directed is necessary in the military service.

By order of the Secretary of War:

PEYTON C. MARCH,  
*General, Chief of Staff*

OFFICIAL:

P. C. HARRIS,  
*The Adjutant General.*

Note.—Only one copy of this order is furnished. Additional copies required should be made therefrom.  
Form No. 401-4, A. G. O.—Dec. 23

FILE

A. G. O.

September 3, 1919.

XXXXXXXXXX

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Subject: Travel Orders.

It is requested that the verbal orders of the Director of Military Intelligence, August 27, 1919, directing Major Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A., to proceed from New York City to Washington D.C., for temporary duty in connection with Military Intelligence, and return to New York City, be approved and confirmed as having been necessary in the military service.

To Miss Apple  
H.P.C.

A. G. Campbell,  
Lieut. Colonel, General Staff,  
Executive Assistant.

rea

Special Orders, **OFFICE 423, 3/12/19** WAR DEPARTMENT,  
NO 707-6 WASHINGTON,

Extract. Sept. 4, 1919.

The travel authorized by Order No. 107, 1919, is hereby cancelled, and the verbal instructions of the War Department, dated 10/12/19, are hereby confirmed, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. daily, for the purpose of the investigation of military intelligence, and in relation to the military service, when the completion of the duty enjoined is considered as having been necessary in the military service.

NOTED:  
A. G. CAMPBELL

W. M. McCOY

The travel directed is necessary in the military service.

By order of the Secretary of War:

PEYTON C. MARCH,  
General, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:  
P. C. HARRIS,  
The Adjutant General.

Note.—Only one copy of this order is furnished. Additional copies required should be made therefrom.  
Form No. 891-4, A. G. O.—Dec. 23-18

CHARGE TO  
GOVERNMENT 36,  
TATT

1st of Staff.

WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

10039-299.

WASHINGTON

September 8, 1919.

Major Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A.,  
#3 East 38th Street,  
New York City.

Orders issued directing you proceed Washington  
and report Director Military Intelligence September Eleventh,  
for temporary duty, upon completion of which return proper  
station. Travel directed necessary military service.

HARRIS.

km

W. D. STANDARD  
FORM NO. 16.

082



In replying refer .

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON.

September 15, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

1. Major Herbert O. Yardley, U. S. A. has requested a discharge from the army on September 30, 1919.
2. The request of Major Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A. approved. He is recommended for discharge on Sept. 30, 1919 provided he has no property responsibilities.

*John M. Dunn*  
Col. U.S.  
Chief, Positive Branch.

The officers indicated below will state their approval or make any other necessary remarks:

Captain Fischer for property responsibility.

Misc Kemper

~~Major Peyton~~ for library responsibility:

Librarian

*E. Kemper*  
U.S.

*E. Kemper*  
U.S.

Certificate for officer to be discharged.

I certify that I am not indebted to any department of the Government. I have returned all property held by me on memorandum receipt.

*H. Yardley*  
Major, U.S. Army

Director of Military Intelligence Division--To Personnel Section.

The request of Major Herbert O. Yardley, USA., is approved and he is recommended for discharge on September 30, 1919

M. Churchill,  
Brigadier General, General Staff,  
Director of Military Intelligence.

Application for Discharge or appointment to  
commission in Reserve Corps or Regular Army.

1. Name..... Herbert O Yardley
2. Rank..... Major..... Date of Birth..... April 13, 1889
3. Date of Commission..... July 18, 1919..... Section in M.I.D..... M.I. 8
4. Nature of work performed in M.I.D..... Chief M.I. 8
5. Civil employment or occupation during past five years.....  
Army 2 years 1917 1919  
Stat. Dept 3 .. 1911 1917
6. Do you desire appointment to commission in Regular Army?..... No
7. Do you desire appointment to commission in Reserve Corps?..... Yes
8. State previous military training..... None
9. Do you desire to be discharged from your present commission in the  
near future?..... Yes
10. Is there definite work in civil life requiring your immediate  
attention?..... No
  - A. Nature of such work.....
  - B. Salary or income expected from such work?.....
  - C. Date upon which such work must be undertaken.....
  - D. Address of firm and employer or future place of business.....
11. Number and relationship of dependents.....  
Wife - Mrs. Yardley

Date Sept 15/19

H O Yardley  
Major USA

September 18, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY:

1. It is requested that orders be issued directing Major Herbert O. Yardley, U.S.A., to proceed from his present station, New York City, to Washington, D.C., on or about September 30, 1919, reporting upon arrival to the Director of Military Intelligence Division for temporary duty and discharge. Travel directed is necessary in the military service.

A. G. CAMPBELL,  
Lieut. Colonel, General Staff,  
Executive Assistant.

*File copy*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

SPECIAL ORDERS  
No. 177, M.I.D.

October 1, 1919

1. By direction of the President, and under the provisions of Section 9, Act of Congress, May 18, 1917; and Circular No. 75, War-Department, 1918,

MAJOR HERBERT OSBORNE YAROLEY, U.S.A.

is honorably discharged from the service of the United States, for the convenience of the Government, to take effect this date, his services being no longer required.

By command of Brigadier General Churchill.

A. G. Campbell,  
Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff,  
Executive Assistant, Military Intelligence Division.



WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

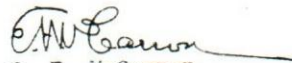
March 3, 1920.

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN WATSON.

Subject: Information on which to base recommendation for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel of Major Herbert O. Yardley.

1. He was in charge of a most important section, Codes and Ciphers, in the Military Intelligence Division. Failure to recommend him for a promotion was due to an oversight. He is an authority on ciphers and would be a most valuable man in case of another war. See if you can get anything else from his personnel file which would support a memorandum for his promotion.

2. At the time that Major Yardley was discharged from the service, no promotions beyond the grade of "Major" were permissible.

  
E. F. McCarron,  
Major A.G.D.,  
Chief M.I.1

rea

March 4, 1920.

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, PERSONNEL BRANCH, OPERATIONS DIVISION, G.S.

Subject: Major Herbert C. Yardley, C.M.R.C.

1. The promotion of Major Herbert C. Yardley, C.M.R.C. to the grade of Lieutenant Colonel, Quartermaster Reserve Corps for Intelligence duty is urgently recommended. At the time of his discharge from the service, Reserve Corps commissions were not being issued in the grade higher than major, and for that reason no recommendation for promotion was made.

2. Major Yardley is an authority on ciphers, and during the emergency was in charge of one of the most important sections, Codes and Ciphers, in the Military Intelligence Division. It would be extremely difficult to obtain an officer of equal value to the service in this specialty, in case of another war.

M. CHURCHILL,  
Brigadier General, General Staff,  
Director of Military Intelligence,  
Assistant Chief of Staff.

By

A.G. CAMPBELL,  
Lieut. Colonel, General Staff,  
Executive Assistant.

m f

10030-200

May 7, 1920.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Subject: Major Herbert W. Yardley.

It is very desirable that Major Yardley be commissioned in the Quartermaster Reserve Corps for Intelligence duty, and it is requested that his file in the office of The Adjutant General be submitted to the Concurring Officer for the purpose of review and recommendation by the Board.

A.B. COLE,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Acting Director of Military Intelligence.

37:

A.G. DE BECK,  
Lieut. Col. General Staff,  
Executive Assistant.

702

In reply refer to  
15 39-299 M.I.-1.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Subject: Major Herbert Osborne Yardley, Q. M. R. C.

1. The record of Major Herbert Osborne Yardley, Q. M. R. C., on file in the office of the Adjutant General of the Army has been reviewed by the Board appointed for the purpose of considering applicants for commission in the Quartermaster Reserve Corps for Intelligence duty. The Board has approved the appointment of Major Yardley in the Quartermaster Reserve Corps for Intelligence duty in the grade of Lieutenant Colonel.

encl.  
mgw

A. B. COXE,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Acting Director of Military Intelligence.

By:

A. G. CAMPBELL,  
Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff,  
Executive Assistant.

080

40



MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

In replying refer to

10039-299

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

June 23, 1920.

MEMORANDUM NO. 103.

After July 1, 1920, the address of Major Herbert  
O. Yardley (discharged ) will be 141 East 37th Street, New York, N.Y.

By order of Colonel Cox:

(10039-299)

*A.G. Campbell*  
A.G. Campbell,  
Lieut. Col. General Staff,  
Executive Assistant.

rea

# HOTEL BELLEVUE



TELEPHONE HAYMARKET 2981  
CABLE ADDRESS 'BELLEVUE' BOSTON

CHARLES A. WOOD  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

BEACON STREET BEACON HILL

BOSTON

*Sunday Aug 8*

*Capt. C. Cook  
Wash. D.C.*

*Dear Capt. Cook:*

*I have your  
permission to take leave of absence  
until Wednesday, but I find  
that I should like to stay longer—  
until next Saturday.*

*Will you kindly let me  
know by return mail if this is o.k.—  
using the above address.*

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO HOTEL BELLEVUE  
NOT TO INDIVIDUALS

10039-299

*Handwritten scribbles*

August 11, 1910.

Mr. Dear Farley:

Your letter of August 3th has just been received and in accordance with your request your leave of absence has been extended until next Saturday.

Sincerely yours,

E. C. Cook,  
Major, General Staff,  
Executive Assistant.

Mr. E. O. Farley,  
Bellevue Hotel,  
Boston, Mass.

ch

*Handwritten note:*  
Not read - telegram not received  
4/11

D.O.A.G. 201 (Yardley, Herbert Osborne) Off.  
D.O.A.G. 201-696.

March 17, 1921.

for the  
Chief of Staff.

Subject: Appointment of Herbert Osborne Yardley  
in Officers' Reserve Corps.

1. Referring to your memorandum of June 9, 1920, recommending that Herbert Osborne Yardley be tendered an appointment as Lieutenant Colonel in the Quartermaster Section of the Officers' Reserve Corps for Intelligence duty, you are informed that Major Yardley has failed to reply to letters from this office dated November 20, 1920, and February 10, 1921, addressed to him at 3 East 38th Street, New York City, requesting that he furnish a detailed report of his physical examination.

2. Instructions are requested as to whether this case shall now be closed in view of the fact that this office has been unable to communicate with Major Yardley.

R. J. Harris.

The Adjutant General.

RECEIVED U.S. MAR 21 1921



MID  
TCC

NOTED  
M. A. M.

MID 12772

10009-279

March 21, 1921.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY:

Subject: Appointment of Herbert Osborne Yardley in  
Officers' Reserve Corps.

1. Reference is had to your memorandum DO A.G. 208 (Yardley, Herbert Osborne) of March 17, 1921, on the above subject in which instructions are requested as to whether this case should be closed in view of the fact that The Adjutant General's office has been unable to communicate with Major Yardley.

2. Major Yardley's present address is 141 N. 37th Street, New York City and not the address referred to in your memorandum as the one used by you to communicate with him.

3. It is therefore desired that a new communication be addressed to Major Yardley at 141 N. 37th Street, New York City, as it is believed that he did not get the previous communications sent him.

For the Director, Military Intelligence Division:

T. C. CYR,  
Major, C. A. C.  
Acting Executive Officer.

sh

RETURN TO M. I. D. SHOWING ACTION.

REG'D FILE, M. I. D. O. C. S. MAR 23 1921

Original Dispatched from  
Office of Chief of Staff

MAR 23 1921

From: ~~Herbert Osborne Yardley~~ The Adjutant General of the Army.

May 27, 1921.

To: Herbert Osborne Yardley,  
141 E. 37th St.,  
New York City, N.Y.

Subject: Appointment in Officers' Reserve Corps.

1. You are appointed ~~Major~~ <sup>Major, Military Intelligence</sup> Officers' Reserve Corps to date from ~~May 19, 1921~~ <sup>May 19, 1921</sup> subject to your being physically qualified. You will not perform the duties of an officer under this appointment until specifically called to duty under War Department orders.

2. There is no recent report of your physical condition on file. It is, therefore, necessary to direct that before you execute the forms signifying acceptance, you fill in the attached form subscribing to your physical fitness. If you do not consider yourself physically qualified you should, in general, decline the appointment stating your reasons therefor. If in doubt as to your physical fitness, or if you desire a decision by the War Department, you may apply to the nearest army medical officer who will conduct your physical examination and who will forward to this office a detailed report on Form No. 395, A.G.O., with a statement that you desire a decision before accepting the appointment. If no army medical officer be available you may have the examination made at your own expense by any reputable private physician.

3. If you sign the personal certificate, execute as indicated the blanks inclosed herewith and return them in the addressed envelope inclosed for that purpose. The Oath of Office should be carefully filled out and should be administered by an official having a seal of office which must be impressed on the form unless the oath is administered by an army officer, in which case your attention is invited to instructions on the back of the form. Under "Prior Military Service" a detailed record of such military service is required. Otherwise the word "none" should appear. If you do not desire to accept kindly forward without delay, a signed and dated letter of declination.

4. Upon receipt of your ~~on acceptance~~ <sup>on acceptance</sup> duly executed and of the personal certificate, a commission covering this appointment will be mailed to you.

5. Members of the Officers' Reserve Corps are required to notify The Adjutant General of the Army of each change of permanent address. This is important in order that the whereabouts of such officers may be known should occasion require immediate communication with them. In letters relating to change of address, etc., mention rank and section of Officers' Reserve Corps in which appointment is held.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Copy for the Director of Military Intelligence

~~A. M. Burdett~~

Adjutant General.

6 Inclosures.

42324 1-11-21 ✓  
10 34-299

(20) M.O. 201 (Yardley, Herbert Osborne) Jif.

June 17, 1921.  
M.O. 201-596

Herbert Osborne Yardley.

Commanding General,  
Second Corps Area,  
Governors Island, New York.

1. The officer named above was appointed Major,  
Military Intelligence Reserve Corps, on May 19, 1921. He accepted  
under date of May 28, 1921, giving his home address as 141 East 37th  
Street, New York City, N.Y.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Adjutant General.

Signed for Director of Military Intelligence



A. C. 201(Yardley, Herbert Osborne)Res.

June 9, 1922.

Serial number and length of prior active service  
in present grade or any higher grade.

Major Herbert Osborne Yardley, Mil. Int. RO.  
141 W. 57th Street,  
New York, New York.

1. You are informed that each officer of the Officers'  
Reserve Corps is now being given a serial number. Your serial  
number is O- 159744.

2. The total length of your active service in the grade  
which you now hold in the Officers' Reserve Corps, or in any  
higher grade, amounts to 3 mos. 15 days.

(See paragraph 10, sub-paragraph 2, Section 1, Special Regulations  
43, 1921). Should you be called to active duty IN YOUR PRESENT GRADE,  
this total length of active service will determine your date of rank.

By order of the Secretary of War:

W. H. C. H.

Adjutant General.

Copies to:

Commanding General Second Corps Area.  
Assistant Chief of Staff, Mil. Intell. Dept.



July 6, 1922.

Major Herbert O. Yardley, MI-ORG,  
141 E. 37th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

In a letter from this office dated May 8, 1922, you were advised of the plans made for the training of certain MI-ORG officers with the Military Intelligence Division in Washington, provided sufficient funds were available for that purpose.

The limited funds now made available for training of Reserve Officers has made it necessary to abandon the contemplated training in Washington.

As you were among those who had expressed a desire to come here for the training we had outlined we regret to inform you that the work planned must be postponed.

We hope that the funds for next year will be sufficient to permit us to carry out the training we had in mind and which we feel will be of value not only to the officer concerned but to this Division as well.

We appreciate very much your offer and willingness to serve.

Yours very truly,

For the A. C. of S., G-2:

B. MAGRUEER,  
Major, Infantry,  
Training Section.

hjn

November 9, 1922.

Subject: D. S. M. for Major Herbert O. Yardley.

to: The Adjutant General of the Army.

1. I recommend that the Distinguished Service Medal be awarded to Major Herbert Osborne Yardley, MI-CMC formerly Major, United States Army, for

"exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services in a position of great responsibility as chief of the Communication Section of the Military Intelligence Division, War Department, General Staff, during the World War."

2. In July 1917 Major, then 1st Lieutenant, Herbert O. Yardley, took over the code and cipher work of the Military Intelligence Division. By his own hard work and the efficient organization of his office he developed, out of a practically unknown field of mystery and doubt, a science by which he was able to translate the most secret messages and obtained information of vital importance to the War Department.

3. Major Yardley also, for the first time, placed the use of code and cipher by the War Department on a sound, scientific basis and thus greatly increased the security of our correspondence with the American Expeditionary Force and our representatives abroad.

4. He achieved results far greater than could reasonably have been expected and rendered service which amply fulfills, in every way, the legal requirements for award of the Distinguished Service Medal.

5. I cannot too strongly recommend favorable consideration.

6. Major H. O. Yardley's present address is 141 - East  
37th Street, New York City.

S. HEINTZELM,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
U. S. of S., G-2.

rls

November 23, 1922.

Subject: D. S. M. for Major Herbert O. Yardley.

To: The Adjutant General of the Army.

I am familiar with the remarkable work of Major H. O. Yardley, O.K.C., in connection with the Communication Section, Military Intelligence Division, General Staff, during the World War.

Major Yardley has distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service in a position of great responsibility and I commend to your favorable consideration the request that he be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

JOHN J. PERSHING,  
General of the Armies,  
Chief of Staff.

rls

NOV 23 1922



ANNUAL REPORT OF AVAILABILITY FOR DUTY OF RESERVE OFFICERS.

Yardley (Last name), HERBERT (First name), B. O. (Middle initial), Major (Grade), Mil Int (Section ORC)

Present permanent address (from which mail will reach me direct or forwarded) New York (State), 141 E 37th St (City, street, and No.), (P. O. box.), (R. F. D.)

During ensuing fiscal year I { \*am / \*am not } available for active duty in case of a minor emergency.

Number of days advance notice desired on call 10 days

(Date), J. Yardley (Signature)

INSTRUCTIONS.

- 1. The principal object of this report is to ascertain periodically the names of those officers who will be available for service in the event of a minor emergency, necessitating the calling to active duty of a limited number of reserve officers.
2. This report to be rendered annually on June 30.
For Territorial Assignment Group: To Department or Corps Area Commander.
For Branch Assignment Group: To Chief of Branch.
For General Assignment Group: To The Adjutant General of the Army.
3. This is not a report of change of address. If address has been changed the usual report of change on Form No. 549-R, A. G. O., will be submitted in addition to this report.
\* Strike out words not applicable.

Form No. 778, A. G. O. Apr. 25, 1923.

13-5561

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON

100 9 271  
OFFICE OF THE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON

MAJ. HERBERT OSBORNE YARDLEY, 71 REGT.  
141 E. 37TH ST., O-159744-RA  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 5-28-21  
5-16-26

APR 2 1926  
(DATE MAILED)

By direction of the President of the United States:

You are hereby informed that you have been by him reappointed in the Army of the United States, in the grade and section you now hold - indicated in the above address - for a period of five years beginning on the day following the one upon which your current appointment expires. The date of expiration of your current appointment is shown in the lower righthand corner of the address above.

There is inclosed herewith an oath of office, which you are requested to execute and mail to the agency designated by the Corps Area Commander, on or before the day following the one upon which your current appointment expires. Upon receipt of the oath of office duly executed a commission evidencing your appointment will be sent to you.

The timely execution and mailing of the required oath of office as above indicated constitute an acceptance of this appointment. No other evidence of acceptance is required or desired.

You are further informed that unless this appointment is accepted in the manner and within the time above stated your status as an officer of the Army of the United States cannot be regarded as continuous, and that unless so accepted this appointment is to be regarded as withdrawn at the end of the day following the one upon which your current appointment expires.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Adjutant General.

Inclosures: Form for oath of office.  
Important Notice.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

10 23 22. (1-11-22)  
Military, Herbert Osborne

WASHINGTON

May 4, 1922.

100 - 464

**SUBJECT:** Distinguished-service medal.

**To:** The Assistant Chief of Staff G-2.

*File B)*

1. The records of this office show that Major Herbert Osborne Yardley, LI-OMC., was awarded the distinguished-service medal by the War Department.

2. It is desired that this be noted on his A.S.C. Form 761 and also on his efficiency record.

By order of the Secretary of War:

*[Signature]*  
Adjutant General.

Copy for:  
Commanding General,  
Second Army Area.

In reply refer to:  
201-  
Yardley, Herbert Osborne  
Res. Div.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND CORPS AREA  
OFFICE OF THE CORPS AREA COMMANDER  
LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

16134-299

FOR INFORMATION

May 23, 1923.

SUBJECT: Reappointment in the Officers' Reserve Corps.

TO : THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Reference instructions contained in paragraph 8, AG 210.1 ORC (11-2-23) November 2, 1923, Subject: Procedure in making Reappointment in the Officers' Reserve Corps, neither an Oath of Office nor a notice of declination in connection with the reappointment of the above named reserve officer has been received at this Headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

**G. E. BISHOP,**  
Major, A. G. S.,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

COPY TO:

✓ A. G. of S. G-2, Washington, D.C.  
A. G. of S. G-2, G.I.H.T.  
File.



OFFICE COPY

1926 10037 299

FILE NO

A.G. 201(Yardley, Herbert Osborne)Res.  
(4-2-26)

4th Ind.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
BAS-mbr-463

War Department, The A.G.O., June 11, 1926. To - The Commanding General, Second Corps Area.

1. The records of this office show that upon information contained in letter from Headquarters Second Corps Area, of May 28, 1926, the expiration of the commission of Herbert Osborne Yardley, as Major, Military Intelligence Division Reserve, was noted on the records as of May 18, 1926.

2. The inclosed oath of office as Major, Military Intelligence Division Reserve, executed by Herbert Osborne Yardley on June 1, 1926, has just been received. Since the notice of reappointment required that in order to be operative the oath of office must be executed and forwarded on or before May 19, 1926, the inclosed oath is ineffective.

3. It is desired that this matter be explained to Major Yardley and that he be given an opportunity to apply for a new appointment.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Adjutant General.

1 Incl.  
Ineffective Oath.

Copy to:  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2. ✓

10039-299

10039-299

141 E. 37th St., N.Y.C. (7/1923)

*Encl. to report on development  
of the organization*

*7/20  
V*

II Yardley, Herbert O., Major, MICRG 4-2:2d



LC 201 Yard, Herbert Osborne  
(12-16-26) en.

Decemb 16, 1926. ad/461

Appointment in Officers' Reserve Corps.

The Commanding General,

Second Corps Area.

1. With reference to the application for appointment as Major, Military Intelligence Division Reserve, from Herbert Osborne Yardley, 95 28th Street, Jackson Heights, New York, New York, The Surgeon General recommends waiver of this applicant's physical disability.

This recommendation is approved.

2. The Chief of Activity concerned recommends appointment as Major, Military Intelligence Division Reserve, at such time as a vacancy may occur under the assignment jurisdiction of the Corps Area Commander to which the applicant may be assigned. If this office be advised when such a vacancy occurs, the question of Mr. Yardley's appointment will be taken up again.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Adjutant General.

Copy for the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

JG/61

10039 299

March 7, 1927.

4/10 7

AG 201 (Yardley, Herbert Osborne) Hon. 3-7-27

Subject: Appointment under sections 27 and 28 National Defense Act as amended

Through: Commanding General, Second Corps Area.

To: Major Herbert Osborne Yardley, MI-Hos. A O-158744  
95 - 28th St., Jackson Heights, Queens, New York, N.Y. B 3 mo 15 da

1. By direction of the President you are appointed in the Army of the United States, effective this date, in the grade and section shown in address above. Your serial number and length of active service in your present or any higher grade are shown above in A and B, respectively.
2. You will not perform the duties of an officer under this appointment until specifically called to active duty by competent orders.
3. There is inclosed herewith a form for oath of office, which you are requested to execute and return promptly to the agency from which it was received by you. The execution and return of the required oath of office constitute an acceptance of your appointment. No other evidence of acceptance is required. Upon receipt in the War Department of the oath of office, properly executed, a commission evidencing your appointment will be sent to you.
4. Prompt action is requested since the regulations require cancellation of the appointment if a reply is not received within a reasonable time.
5. Whenever your permanent address is changed, it is important that you notify all concerned, using the inclosed Personal Report form.

By order of the Secretary of War:

A. E. Summers, Jr.

Adjutant General

Inclosures

- Form for oath of office.
- Army Regulations, No. 140-5.
- Personal Report Form.

Copy for the Ass't Chief of Staff, G-2.  
Copy MI Letter.



EC 7

1928

IN REPLY REFER TO

HEADQUARTERS SECOND CORPS AREA  
OFFICE OF THE CORPS AREA COMMANDER

RH-op

201-Yardley, Herbert O.,  
1es-Div.

GOVERNORS ISLAND NEW YORK

August 11 ~~1928~~, 1928.

Subject: Change in Assignment of Officers of the  
Military Intelligence.

To : The Adjutant General.

1. In compliance with instructions contained  
in paragraph 4 of the letter from your office (A.G.  
320.2 O.R.C. 6-20-28 Res ) dated June 20, 1928, there  
are inclosed the records of Major Herbert O. Yardley,  
MI-Pes., for transfer to the Branch Assignment Group.

2. There are no credit hours or active duty  
in the case of this officer.

3. This officer is not desired for assignment  
under the jurisdiction of this headquarters.

*H. E. Ely*  
H. E. ELY

Major General, Commanding.

2 Incls.  
Form 761, A.G.O.,  
Form 423a, A.G.O.

*201 Yardley, Herbert O. 1es-Div.*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Office of the Chief of Staff  
Washington

August 20, 1928

Subject: Mobilization Assignment.

To: Major Herbert C. Yardley, MI-Res.,  
187 - 24th St., Jackson Heights, Queens, N.Y.C.

Through: Commanding General, Second Corps Area.

1. Under recent orders of the War Department all Military Intelligence Reserve officers have been placed in the Branch Assignment Group. This has made necessary certain changes in the assignment of officers.

2. You have been given the following specific assignment under the mobilization plan:

for Plans and Training Branch, Office of the  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department

3. While you are on inactive duty you will be under the administrative control of the Commander of the Corps Area in which you reside and your inactive duty training will be conducted under his supervision.

4. If you desire active duty training, application for such training should be made to your Corps Area Commander.

STANLEY E. FORD,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S., G-2.

425

eb

February 9, 1929.

Major Herbert O. Yardley, MI-Res.,  
187 - 24th Street,  
Jackson Heights, N. Y.

My dear Major Yardley:

We are planning to assemble a committee of Military Intelligence Reserve officers here in the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department for two weeks active duty training from May 5 to May 19, 1929.

This committee will be given an intensive course of instruction in the principles of cryptanalysis and in the solution of codes and ciphers. The major part of the instruction will consist of practical problems involving the breaking down of codes.

We are endeavoring to assemble for this course of instruction those Military Intelligence Reserve officers whose training and previous military service indicates a knowledge of or an aptitude for this work. Your name has been included in this list.

Will you please let me know if you desire to be ordered for this active duty training and if you can arrange your business affairs so that you can be available for such duty at the time indicated. If your answer is in the affirmative, the necessary orders will be issued by The Adjutant General at the proper time.

I feel that this course of instruction will be interesting and instructive and will be of value to you and to the Army. I hope that you will be able to accept the detail. It will not be necessary to have a uniform for this tour of duty.

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY H. FORD,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S., G-2.

olt



AG 202 Res. (8-11-28)  
Yardley, Herbert Osborne

1st Lt.

HLR-463

War Dept., A.G.O., August 14, 1928. To - Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

The transfer of Major Herbert Osborne Yardley, MI-Res., to the  
S.A. Group, is approved.

By order of the Secretary of War:

  
Assistant General.

3 Incls. - no change.



CODE COMPILING COMPANY, Inc.  
52 VANDERBILT AVENUE  
NEW YORK  
CABLE ADDRESS "CODCOMCO"

1929

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11  
7

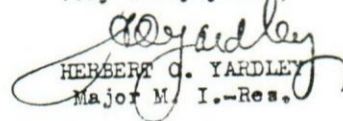
February 26, 1929.

Colonel Stanley H. Ford,  
A.C. of S-G-2,  
War Department,  
Office of the Chief of Staff,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Colonel Ford:

In reference to your letter of February 9th,  
G-2/10039-299, I shall be very pleased indeed to report  
to the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department  
for two weeks active training from May 6 to May 19, 1929.

Very truly yours,

  
HERBERT C. YARDLEY  
Major M. I.-Res.

HOY/oc

April 12, 1929.

Major Herbert O. Yardley, MI-Res.,  
52 Vanderbilt Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Major Yardley:

I am pleased to learn that you have been able to arrange your business affairs so as to permit you to serve on active duty in this Division as a member of the G-2 Committee of Reserve Officers from May 6 to 19, 1929. The Adjutant General will furnish you with the necessary orders.

The following is furnished for your information:

You should report to Major O. A. Albright, Chief of the Communications Section, Operations Branch, G-2, Room 2648, Munitions Building, at 9:30 A.M., Monday, May 6, 1929.

It is not necessary to bring uniform for this tour of duty.

Prior to your departure for Washington, you should secure a medical certificate of physical examination and present same to Major Albright on arrival. This certificate can be secured by applying to corps area headquarters, the nearest Army post, recruiting station, or National Guard unit, or, if this is impracticable, to a local physician. A form of certificate is enclosed.

If you have had National Guard service, you should secure from the Adjutant General of your State a certificate of National Guard commissioned service, so as to properly establish your credits.

Pay and allowances for fourteen days will amount to <sup>approximately,</sup> \$194.36, if you have a dependent, or to \$158.90 if you have no dependent.

I hope that you will enjoy your work while on duty with the Military Intelligence Division, and I feel sure that the members of the Committee as well as the War Department will derive mutual benefits from your tour of duty.

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY H. FORD,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S., G-2.

encl. 1  
eb

RECEIVED  
MAY 14 1929

*10039*

ACTIVE DUTY REPORT OF RESERVE OFFICER

10 29-299

Washington, D. C.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade and Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

G-2/10033-299

1st Ind.

WES-eb

A. C. of S., G-2, W.D. . . . . May 18, 1929. To: The Adjutant General.

1. Major Herbert O. Yardley, MI-Res., was on active duty in the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, from May 5, 1929, to May 18, 1929, both dates inclusive.

2. Major Yardley is assigned to the Branch Assignment Group.

Encls. 3:  
Efficiency report.  
Physical examination.  
Physical certificate.

STANLEY H. FORD,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S., G-2.



May 27, 1929.

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, M. I. D.:

Subject: Impressions of two weeks' training of  
Code and Cipher and Secret Ink Officers - May 6 to May 20, 1929.

From the impression I received it was the unanimous opinion of all the officers that such a course of instruction should be given at least once a year and that such a procedure will have a wide and far-reaching effect upon this particular branch of the Service.

What struck me most forcibly was the fact that the Government's knowledge about these subjects is contained in so many different papers that it is impossible for the student to have before him in any systematic form available data about any specific subject.

In order that the history, importance and present knowledge of Code and Ciphers, Secret Ink, and Coniometric Service may not be lost, I respectfully recommend that a "Bible" be prepared along the following lines:

(1) HISTORY

The history of Codes and Ciphers, Secret Inks and Coniometric Service should contain important events in history, as well as during the World War, in which this service played an important part in the military, naval and diplomatic fields. For example, Ludendorff in his "Memoirs" quotes a number of enemy decoded messages which materially helped him in forming his battle plans. Hindenberg speaks also of his ability to anticipate enemy maneuvers by the interception and reading of enemy messages. We have in our own case many important examples such as messages telling at what point and hour the enemy would attack, the Waberski Cipher, and innumerable diplomatic messages.

(2) INDEX  
OF ALL KNOWN  
DATA

In order to compile such an index, all the data in the hands of the Government should be gone over carefully and carded and indexed. When the cards are brought together, we will then have an index of all the information that we have about a given type of code or cipher. This index will show the subject matter, author, and number of pages of each memorandum. It is understood



of course, that the same should be done with secret ink and goniometric service. These papers should then be numbered and privately bound into volumes.

Starting from this point it should be the aim of the Signal Intelligence Service to encourage the students to write a paper on any new discovery dealing with these subjects. In order to give the students some incentive they should be made to realize that such a paper will be bound in the "Bible", would bear their name, and that it might very well be a source of reference for students so long as codes and ciphers are used for Secret Communication.

I spent Saturday afternoon, May 18th, making cards of the papers that Friedman has in his office and I am now going over material we have here. I roughly estimate that our "Bible" when assembled will contain from 2000 to 5000 pages.

I think that by far the finest piece of work that was done by any officer was Capt. McGrail's paper on Secret Ink. I believe that a letter to him signed by the Director to some such effect and a request for the historical part of secret inks containing some of the more important cases in which discovery of secret ink letters led to the arrest of spies would bring forth a paper from Capt. McGrail that would be invaluable to our proposed "Bible".

There is practically nothing written regarding goniometric service. Capt. Kilbourne has promised to submit such a paper.

If the Director approves of the foregoing, I shall be very glad to start the preparation of the so-called History and Index to the "Bible" and submit it for criticism and revision.

I should like to take this occasion to express my sincere thanks for the courtesy and goodwill extended to us by both M. I. D. and Signal Corps Officers. I should also like to compliment Major Friedman upon the way in which he conducted the classes and to assure him that not only I, but all the officers of the class, hold him in very high esteem indeed.

H. O. YARDLEY

HOY/oc

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
In replying refer to

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

July 17, 1929.

My dear General Gibbs:

With reference to the activities which have recently been discussed, I would like to submit, informally, the following information:

Present monthly pay-roll

Alice Dillon	\$110.00
Marguerite O'Connor	150.00
Edna Ramsaier	133.33
Victor Weiskopf	305.00
Ruth Wilson	312.50
H. C. Yardley	625.00
Rent	250.00
Petty cash	15.00

Arrangements have been made by G-2 to carry this group at the salaries listed above and to pay rent as indicated up to include October 31. From November 1, when outside support ceases, this division will make available to you \$833.33 per month, which amounts to the full \$10,000 per year, with the understanding that this may be spent in any way you desire.

The simplest plan seems to be for your office to O.K. vouchers against this fund and send them to G-2 for payment.

From now until November 1, the group in New York is at your disposal for any work along their lines that you see fit. They will not be called upon to do any further work for S.D. I have no doubt that Friedmann will have definite ideas as to what final work they should be put at until November 1, such as the collection of data in tabulated form, etc.

Yardley will be down Friday to see you so that you may discuss with him any arrangements that you desire to make both up to November 1 and after.

One matter that will have to be taken up with him is the question of the lease of his present quarters. We have no record here to show how long the lease runs, since it was a personal affair handled by Yardley himself.

Sincerely yours,

*O. S. Albright*  
O. S. Albright,  
Major, General Staff.

MID-36  
P 5-205 a  
1110-0  
12-16-29  
4 616.68



MEMORANDUM

The following notes relate to a conference held in the O.C.S.O. on July 19, 1929, with reference to the organization of the Signal Intelligence Service consequent upon taking over the Code and Cipher Solution and Secret Ink Services from M.I.D.

There were present:

Lieut. Colonel Hemphill  
Major Blair  
Major Albright  
Mr. Friedman.

Discussion first centered about the primary function of the Signal Intelligence Service, and it was concluded that this function is to be one of training for war, and the necessary organization to accomplish the training.

The foregoing involves a consideration of the missions of the respective sections of the service, which are as follows:

- a) The Code and Cipher Compilation Service - which produces the codes and ciphers for use in peace and also a certain amount of reserve codes and ciphers for immediate issue in time of emergency. It also has the peace-time mission of training personnel for proper functioning in the field in time of war.
- b) The Code and Cipher Solution Service - which solves enemy codes and ciphers in time of war. Its peace-time mission is fundamentally that of organizing and training for proper functioning in war.
- c) The Intercept and Goniometric Service - which intercepts enemy communications and locates by goniometric means enemy transmitting stations. Its peace-time mission is the same as that of b).
- d) The Secret Ink Service - which devises and develops secret inks for the use of our own G-2 personnel, and detects secret inks in enemy documents. Its peace-time mission is purely one of research and training for war-time functioning.

All of these services should be organized in a unified manner and administered in the O.C.S.O., where, as a unit, it is to take its place and fit into the Office as and when reorganized. As indicated above, all work of the Signal Intelligence Service is to be organized on the basis of training for war rather than of active operations for immediate interception and solution of the communications of foreign armies or governments. However, if information of present or immediate value to G-2 should be intercepted and solved, such information would be acceptable to G-2, but it should always be regarded as a by-product of the training work and not as the function of the Signal Communication Service in peace-time.

Since training maneuvers and exercises are frequently conducted at Hawaii and Panama, sections of the Signal Intelligence Service should be organized at the headquarters of the Departments concerned. These should be manned by enlisted personnel. As to the advisability of establishing such a section in the Philippine Department, this project would require much thought and decision from higher authority than that exercised by any of those present, and is a matter for consideration of the Chief Signal Officer, the War Department, and the Commanding General. In the other places indicated, if intercept stations are organized for purposes of training solely, and this is clearly understood by all concerned, there would be no difficulties. The material intercepted would be worked upon only if there was present a section devoted to solution, the results of which would be passed on to G-2 of the Department as information. If no solving section were established, the messages would go to the Signal Officer of the Department, who would pass them on to G-2. The latter would do what he sees fit with this traffic, either destroying it, or asking for further instructions from higher headquarters.

It was estimated that it would require a minimum of two years to train personnel to act as independent cryptanalysts capable of conducting solution work at the Departments indicated. Material not solvable by them would be forwarded to Washington for further study.

Training for intercept and goniometric work will be conducted at Fort Monmouth, where also would be located the chemical laboratory and personnel engaged in the study of Secret Inks.

\* \* \* \* \*

In view of the foregoing it is obvious that the taking over of the present M.I.D. Code Solving Section involves a rather complete breaking up of that section, and a departure from the mission it has had from 1919 to the present, although there can be no doubt that its operation has yielded very important results that would have a definite bearing upon war-time effectiveness of the service. The purpose of the organization up to now has been to obtain information of present, immediate value, and little if any attention has been devoted to training for war.

It is suggested by Colonel Hemphill that the present chief of that section be offered a definite proposal that he come here at a salary considerably below his present, with whatever other personnel from his section he wishes, the total to be within the funds available, which is \$10,000. It is highly probable that this offer will be unacceptable, in which case this office is free to go ahead and reorganize from the very bottom, with no entanglements from the past.



If this turns out to be the case, then it is suggested that four young men be employed and given thorough training in this office for their future development with the ultimate object of the organization of the Signal Intelligence Service as outlined above.

These men should, if possible, be college graduates, <sup>or equivalent</sup> carefully selected for the positions. They should form good material for commissioning in the Signal Reserve, and after their training period be qualified and competent to act independently as the heads of advanced Signal Intelligence Service Sections wherever the latter are to be established. It is thought that their entrance salaries should be about \$2000. Each one would get a basic training in all the phases of signal intelligence work, and then each would specialize on a particular phase. One might specialize on the compilation end, including a thoroughgoing knowledge of cipher apparatus and mechanisms. Another on intercept and goniometric work. The other two would make specialties of definite groups of languages and the code or cipher systems of the countries speaking those languages. As soon as the chemical laboratory becomes established, a young chemist would be obtained to specialize on secret inks, but he too would have a basic groundwork in secret communication methods in general.

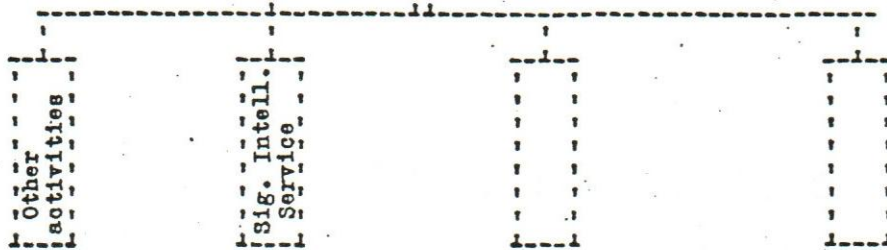
The conduct of the present work of the Code and Cipher Section and the training indicated above would make a full program for the re-organized section for at least two years. Probably additional clerical assistance would be necessary to aid in the preparation of material for study.

It is further suggested that a commissioned officer be assigned to administer the service in this office. If the service is allocated to the Special Service Division, which is to be administered by a field officer, then the officer in direct charge of the Signal Intelligence Service might be a captain or a first lieutenant.

Attached hereto is an outline of the contemplated organization of the Signal Intelligence Service, following the lines indicated.

SPECIAL SERVICE DIVISION  
(Or Training & War Plans Div.)

Major, S.C.



Administration & Records Section } .....Comm. Officer (Capt. or 1st Lt.)  
 (Typing, copying, proofreading, etc., for all sections)  
 1- Stenographer  
 Grade CAF 3 ... \$1620.  
 1- Clerk  
 Grade CAF 2 ... 1440.  
 1- Clerk  
 Grade CAF 3 ... 1620.  
 \$4680.

Civilian Chief of Service & Director of Training & TR Literature } .....Principal Cryptanalyst  
 Grade P 6 ... \$5600.

Intercept & Goniometric Section Ft. Monmouth	Code & Cipher Compilation Section	Code & Cipher Solution Section	Secret Inks Section Ft. Monmouth	Reserve O. & TR Literature Section	
1-Civ. Gr. P1 \$2000.		3-Civ. Gr. P1 \$2000.			
		\$6000.			\$8000.
					Total \$18280

( Present cost:  
 Friedman .. \$5600  
 Skelly .. 1560  
 Total .. \$7160  
 Allotted by  
 MID 16000  
 \$17160.  
 Additional



CHECKS RECEIVED FROM STATE DEPARTMENT.

10039 277

September 1921	\$3,333.00	Brought forward	\$133,326.00
October	3,333.00	November 1926	\$1,250.00
November	3,333.00	December	1,250.00
December	3,333.00	January 1927	1,250.00
January 1922	3,333.00	February	1,250.00
February	3,333.00	March	1,250.00
March	3,333.00	April	1,250.00
April	3,333.00	May	1,250.00
May	3,333.00	June	1,250.00
June	3,333.00	July	1,250.00
July	3,333.00	August	1,250.00
August	3,333.00	September	1,250.00
September	3,333.00	October	1,250.00
October	3,333.00	November	1,250.00
November	3,333.00	December	1,250.00
December	3,333.00	January 1928	1,250.00
January 1923	3,333.00	February	1,250.00
February	3,333.00	March	1,250.00
March	3,333.00	April	1,250.00
April	3,333.00	May	1,250.00
May	3,333.00	June	1,250.00
June	3,333.00	July	1,250.00
July	2,083.00	August	1,250.00
August	2,083.00	September	1,250.00
September	2,083.00	October	1,250.00
October	2,083.00	November	1,250.00
November	2,083.00	December	1,250.00
December	2,083.00	January 1929	1,250.00
January 1924	2,083.00	February	1,250.00
February	2,083.00	March	1,250.00
March	2,083.00	April	1,250.00
April	2,083.00	May	1,250.00
May	2,083.00	June	1,250.00
June	2,087.00	July	1,250.00
July	1,250.00	August	1,250.00
August	1,250.00	September	1,250.00
September	1,250.00		
October	1,250.00		
November	1,250.00		
December	1,250.00		
January 1925	1,250.00	TOTAL	\$177,076.00
February	1,250.00		53 326
March	1,250.00		23 7424
April	1,250.00		
May	1,250.00		
June	1,250.00		
July	1,250.00		
August	1,250.00		
September	1,250.00		
October	1,250.00		
November	1,250.00		
December	1,250.00		
January 1926	1,250.00		
February	1,250.00		
March	1,250.00		
April	1,250.00		
May	1,250.00		
June	1,250.00		
July	1,250.00		
August	1,250.00		
September	1,250.00		
October	1,250.00		
Carried forward	\$133,326.00		



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT AND STATEMENT OF PREFERENCES FOR RESERVE OFFICERS

(SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK)

From: Yardley Herbert Osborne Date 1 1 192  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

To: The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.  
 (Through Corps Area or Department Commander)

I hereby make application for appointment as Major MI-Res.  
(Grade) (Section)

in the Officers' Reserve Corps, preferably for Special Service  
(Service with troops, or special service)

In connection with the application I submit the following information, which I certify to be correct to the best of my knowledge.

1. Permanent address 95-28th Street, 187-24th St.  
Jackson Heights, Queens, N.Y.C.

2. Date of birth 4/13/89 White or colored W.

3. Place of birth Worthington, Ind.

4. Height 5 ft. 5 ins. Weight 125 lbs.

5. State whether or not you are a citizen of the United States and whether by birth or naturalization. (If the latter, append evidence of naturalization, or if evidence not available, state when and before what court naturalized.)

6. Married or single Married

7. Number of minor children none

8. Name of nearest relative, giving relationship and address, including street and number:

Hazel Yardley (Wife)  
95-28th St, Jackson Heights,  
Queens, N. Y. C.

9. Father's name\* Yardley Robert K  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

Father's address 11213 O Bussard St  
Vincennes Indiana  
(City, town, or post office) (State or country)

Father's birthplace Baltimore MD  
USA

If of foreign birth, state whether or not naturalized, giving date and place of naturalization:

Mother's name† Yardley Emma  
(Present last name) (First name) (Maiden name)

Mother's address† Deceased  
(Number and street, or rural route)

Mother's birthplace Worthington Indiana  
WA

10. Marksmanship, giving year of qualification:

Rifle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pistol \_\_\_\_\_

Languages:

	French	Spanish	German	Other
Speaks fluently				
Speaks fairly	X			
Translates	X	X	X	
Reads	X	X	X	

12. Special knowledge, professional or other Codes and Ciphers.

13. Present occupation, years of experience in same and name and address of employer, if any Telegraph, cable, codes & ciphers. 12 years

14. Experience in other lines and years of same \_\_\_\_\_

15. Schools attended, other than graded schools, including service schools:

Name of School	Number of years attended	Graduated?		Degree
		Yes or No	Year	
Worthington H.S.	4	yes		
Chicago Univ.	1	no		

Subjects specialized in English

16. Campaigns and battles participated in (give dates) \_\_\_\_\_

17. Decorations, citations and commendations (attach copies) See attached DSM

18. Wounds, giving date and place of occurrence \_\_\_\_\_

19. State membership in professional societies \_\_\_\_\_

20. Are you at present a member of the Regular Army, Enlisted Reserve Corps, or Federally recognized in the National Guard? If so, state which, giving grade and organization or branch of service: No

**APPOINTED**

\*In giving the names of the father or mother, if either is deceased it will be noted following the name.  
 †In giving the mother's last name, that which she bears at present will be given.  
 If the mother's address is the same as the father's, it will be so noted and not repeated.

*10 West Ch of Staff, 1st*



CHRONOLOGICAL STATEMENT OF SERVICE IN THE ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS, INCLUDING SERVICE AS A CADET IN THE U.S. MILITARY OR NAVAL ACADEMY, NATIONAL NATIONAL VOLUNTEER NATIONAL GUARD IN FEDERAL SERVICE, AS A RESERVE OFFICER ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AT MILITARY TRAINING CAMPS, OR AS A CONTRACT SURGEON SERVING FULL TIME, OR AS A STUDENT IN THE R. O. T. C. OR C. M. T. C.

From—	To—	Station	Grade	Organization	Duty	Full name and grade of immediate commanding officer
July 17,	July 18,	War College	(LT)	Sig Corps	Mil. Int.	Col. R. H. Van Deman
July 18,	May 19,	Wash. Eng. Fr. & Italy	(Capt)	Mil. Int.	Chief, MI-8, Mil. Observer abroad, also detailed to Peace Commission	Gen. M. Churchill
May 19,	Oct 19,	Washington	Maj.	Mil. Int.	Chief, MI-8	Gen. Churchill

Were you ever rejected for any branch of the military service or for the R. O. T. C. or C. M. T. C. No If so, state which when and where rejected and cause (Yes or No)

**Military Service Other Than Above**

Service in Officers' Reserve Corps (inactive); Enlisted Reserve Corps (inactive); Naval or Marine Corps Reserve Forces (inactive); National Guard or Naval Militia not in Federal service, or in military or naval forces of foreign countries:

Prior service in Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or Coast and Geodetic Survey. Give dates and nature of service.

**Statement of Preferences**  
(See par. 7, Instructions)

- Do you desire active service— No
  - In time of peace No
    - If so, state whether for 15 days' training or for a longer period
    - At what time of year do you prefer to have such duty?
  - In time of minor emergency necessitating the calling to active duty of a limited number of reserve officers No
  - In time of major emergency Yes
- How many days advance notice do you desire—
  - In case of call to active service for one month or less
  - For longer period
- In case of call to active service, for just what character of duty do you consider yourself best qualified? See below

REMARKS.—State any other information you may desire to submit for consideration:

During World War organized and was in charge of MI-8, Code and Cipher. Consider myself best qualified to organize and direct ~~affairs of~~ Code and Cipher Bureau.

(Signature) Herbert Osborne Yardley

(Name typed) Herbert Osborne Yardley

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Fill out on typewriter, if practicable; if not, print proper names and write clearly. This form must be executed IN DUPLICATE and both copies forwarded through the corps area or department commander to The Adjutant General. EACH COPY MUST BE AN ORIGINAL AND SIGNED. Carbon copies will not be accepted.
- Applications will be accompanied by a report of physical examination on W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 63, which may be obtained from any military post or station. Physical examination should preferably be by a medical officer of the Regular Army, Officers' Reserve Corps, National Guard, or Public Health Service. If applicant so desires, the examination may be made by a reputable private physician.
- If the applicant is in the military service, application will be forwarded through military channels, including, in the cases of Federally recognized members of the National Guard, the Adjutant General of the State and the Chief of Militia Bureau.
- If appointment is sought with a view to assignment to a particular unit of the Organized Reserves, that fact will be stated under "Remarks."
- Under "Remarks" make appropriate explanation, when other allotted spaces are insufficient, and any statement you may wish to make with regard to your preference for duty and any recommendation which you may have received for promotion, giving full name and grade of recommending officer.
- Under "Chronological Statement of Service" state duty specifically, as "regimental adjutant," "company commander," etc., NOT in general terms, as "regimental duty," "staff duty," etc.
- The "Statement of Preferences" will be considered when details and assignments are to be made and will be followed when reasonable, practicable, and in accord with the best interests of the service.

10031 27 1030  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
August 1, 1929.

Major H. O. Yardley, MI-Res.,  
Hotel Montclair,  
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Yardley:

In view of the fact that your resignation from the War Department service has been regretfully accepted, it is my desire to express to you my personal appreciation and that of the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department for your long and faithful services.

You have an excellent record. As code and cipher expert, and as a Major, U. S. Army, in charge of the Communication Section of this Division during the war, you were awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, an outstanding and much coveted honor. Since the war to the present date, your services as a code and cipher compiler rendered in your civilian capacity have proven extremely valuable to this division.

Again let me express my regret that you have terminated your services with the War Department, and my sincere good wishes to you in your future activities.

Most sincerely yours,

Stanley H. Ford.  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S., G-2.

hcm



Military Intelligence Division  
10039-299

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Office of the Chief of Staff,  
Washington

1003. 299 1929  
August 28, 1929.

Subject: Change in Mobilization Assignment.  
To: Major Herbert O. Yardley, MI-Res.,  
187 24th Street, Jackson Heights, N. Y.  
Through: The Commanding General, Second Corps Area.

1. As a result of recent reorganization of the Military Intelligence Division and of a reallocation of duties to the several branches of this Division, certain changes have become necessary in the mobilization assignments of Military Intelligence Reserve officers.

2. You have been given the following specific assignment under the mobilization plan. This assignment revokes any previous assignments which you may have received.

Communications Section, Operations Branch, Office of the  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department.

3. While you are on inactive duty you will be under the administrative control of the Commander of the Corps Area in which you reside and your inactive duty training will be conducted under his supervision.

4. If you desire active duty training, application for such training should be made to your Corps Area Commander.

STANLEY H. FORD,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S., G-2.

RECORDED & INDEXED

10039



## CODE EXPERT'S MS ON JAPAN IS SEIZED

Federal Men Impound Work by  
H. O. Yardley, Wartime Head  
of Cryptographic Bureau.

### GRAND JURY GETS CASE

Author of Accused of Taking  
Secret Diplomatic Documents  
When He Left Service.

The manuscript of a new book by Herbert O. Yardley, wartime head of the secret American Cryptographic Bureau during the World War, was seized here yesterday and impounded by the Department of Justice under Section 23, Title 50, of the United States Code, which prohibits agents of the government from appropriating secret documents.

The manuscript, entitled "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets," is said to disclose the American Black Chamber's published two years ago instructions and decoding instructions to delegates at the Washington Peace Conference in 1922. It is said also to disclose that the Japanese delegation was instructed to hold their hands in a limited time, and at the end of that time the British and American delegations showed no signs of yielding, and that the American delegates were instructed to take the action of the Japanese delegation.

A short time ago Mr. Yardley submitted the manuscript to the Macmillan Company for approval. Yesterday a United States Marshal called at the offices of the publisher and advised George P. Brett that he was wanted at the Federal Building, and told him to take the manuscript of "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets" with him.

About the same time a marshal appeared at the offices of George T. Bye, Yardley's literary agent, at 535 Fifth Avenue. Mr. Bye was not there, but the marshal left a telephone number with instructions that Mr. Bye call it as soon as he returned. When Mr. Bye called, he was told to appear at the Federal Building.

It was learned that the manuscript had been taken to the Federal Building and Mr. Bye was taken immediately before the Federal grand jury by Assistant District Attorney Dewey to testify regarding their connection with the book. Later they were released.

For several months Department of Justice agents have been seeking secret documents which Mr. Yardley is known to have retained after he left the Cryptographic Bureau. His friends say he offered these documents to the government when he left the service, but the government refused them. Since then, they say, Mr. Yardley has deposited the documents in safe deposit boxes at various points in the country.

Department of Justice agents are said to have expressed surprise yesterday when they learned that Mr. Yardley not only was in New York, but had been lecturing in the vicinity for some time. At their request, Mr. Bye agreed to produce Mr. Yardley today.

In "The American Black Chamber" Mr. Yardley said his work of decoding ciphers was continued by the State Department after the war until it was stopped by the State Department in 1929, soon after Mr. Stimson became secretary. Mr. Stimson declined at the time to comment on statements in the book.



Major Yardley  
10059 29  
To Lecture At  
Country Club

"American Black Chamber"  
Is To Be Illuminating  
Theme Of Former Chief  
Of Cryptographic Bureau

Dinner For Membership Is  
Agreeable Preliminary

Veil Of Diplomacy Is To Be  
Lifted In Dramatic Story  
Of War-Time Espionage

MAJOR HERBERT O. YARDLEY, former Chief of the Cryptographic Bureau of the United States Military Intelligence, who will lecture on "The American Black Chamber" at the Cincinnati Country Club this evening, is one of the greatest living authorities on secret codes and ciphers and was decorated by the Secretary of War with the Distinguished Service Medal for his accomplishments.

The membership of this important solidarity on the Grandin Road is looking forward to hearing on this occasion his interpretation of dramatic incidents of wartime espionage. He lifts the veil of secret diplomacy and international intrigue and shows the photographs of international codes which deciphered by the "American Black Chamber," which he created, not only affected the lives of individuals but also shaped the decisions of governments.

STRANGER THAN FICTION.

Although Major Yardley and his cryptographers deciphered more than 45,000 code messages of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, France, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Russia, San Salvador, Santo Domingo, the Soviet Republic and Spain, he reveals his department best in the decipherment of the most difficult of all codes—the Japanese. This accomplishment has often been compared to the interpretation of the ancient hieroglyphics. The description which he will give tonight, however, is not technical and his audience will easily follow this unique story which is indeed stranger than fiction.

A brownstone front on East Thirty-seventh Street just off Fifth Avenue, New York City, housed the queerest assortment of scientists in America. This strange bureau, secretly financed by the United States Government, was created and in its secret activities directed by Major Yardley. Copies of code and cipher telegrams filed by foreign Embassies and Legations with the cable companies in Washington reached this house by devious means and were transcribed by the 165 clever men and women whose skill and ingenuity was interwoven with the tapestry of modern history for a period of 12 years, their important roles being a significant factor in the winning of the Washington naval conference, as well as in the modification of other historic and momentous events.

SECRETS OF MODERN WARFARE.

Solving ciphers, stealing enemy codes, reading messages sent in secret inks, all this is an important part of modern warfare. The American Black Chamber deciphered more than 10,000 cryptograms and more than 50 important spy letters during the war. Major Yardley will illustrate for his audience this eve-

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His poignant stories of individuals will include that of Pablo Waberski, the famous German spy, the only recorded case in American history where a foreign secret agent was condemned to death through the decipherment of these secret documents.

ADVENTURES AND ACHIEVEMENT.

Since the founding of this bureau Major Yardley's life has been one thrilling adventure after another. Statesmen have showered him with honors, for through his almost uncanny instinct for the deciphering of unusual codes he has rendered invaluable service to his country.

In his famous book "The American Black Chamber" Major Yardley has revealed intimate international secrets. Similar knowledge makes his authoritative addresses of the utmost importance. They publicize more important facts about international diplomatic affairs than have been heretofore offered from the lecture platform.

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE OF THE FUTURE.

This illuminating discussion will inspire much discussion as to the way America will fare in the Conference Room since the American Black Chamber is closed and our Government no longer may depend upon its decipherment of foreign secrets. Should America in self-protection stand by treaty with the Great Powers who still maintain large staffs to read our secrets that diplomatic correspondence remain inviolate? Or should she again resort to the practice of supervising the telegrams of foreign nations?

THE LONDON NAVAL CONFERENCE.

Through the decipherment of the diplomatic secret code messages of foreign governments, Major Yardley and his skilled cryptographers revealed as late as 1927, during the crisis in China, that England and Japan, though the Anglo-Japanese

Alliance was abrogated in 1922, still made joint, and so they thought, secret agreements. Without the benefit of the Black Chamber's decipherments and with their own antiquated codes, the American delegation journeyed to London and were so badly defeated as to return with six-inch guns and a 10-to-7 naval ratio and submarine parity with Japan. Major Yardley studied cryptography in England's cipher bureau and saw the skilled English cryptographer at work deciphering the secrets of other nations. He tells us why our defeat at London was inevitable.

A dinner at the Country Club at 1 o'clock will be a gay preliminary to this fascinating lecture.

One of the largest and most interesting groups will be that assembled by Miss Katherine Ernst, who will have as her guests Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Wilder, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ives, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Witten and Mr. and Mrs. John Enger.

Joining Dr. and Mrs. H. M. Goodyear at their hospitable table will be Mrs. Murray Shipley, and Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe, of Cleveland, who are visiting Mrs. Shipley over the week-end.

Others who are planning to enjoy this dinner are Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Benedict, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Williams, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Scott Alter, who will have with them Mr. and Mrs. James Burton Doan, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hopple, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Sutphin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. McVeigh, Mr. and Mrs.



publicize more important facts about international diplomatic affairs than have been heretofore offered from the lecture room.

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COPY

Worthington, Indiana.  
February 24, 1931.

Captain M. F. Shepherd,  
Unit Instructor,  
Headquarters 333rd Infantry,  
Room 11, City Hall,  
Vincennes, Indiana.

My dear Captain Shepherd:

Referring to my letter of January 31st to the Secretary of War, in which I wrote as follows:

It is respectfully requested that you consider this as my resignation as Major in the Reserve Corps

and your letter of February 9th, in which you ask me to state my reasons for resigning, I have only the following to say for I had thought the Secretary of War would be especially anxious to waive the rule of which you speak: The War Department has over 1000 letters to and from me during the last ten years while I was on secret payroll of the Military Intelligence Division. It seems rather strange after these years of direct communication, the Department should wish me to go through channels. However, my reason for resigning is that I do not approve of the policies of Military Intelligence Division and therefore no longer wish my name identified with this division. My resignation is unconditional and without rancor of any sort.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Herbert O. Yardley.

(Incl-4)



COPY

1931

Worthington, Indiana.  
February 24, 1931.

Captain M. F. Shepherd,  
Unit Instructor,  
Headquarters 333rd Infantry,  
Room 11, City Hall,  
Vincennes, Indiana.

My dear Captain Shepherd:

Referring to my letter of January 31st to the Secretary of War, in which I wrote as follows:

It is respectfully requested that you consider this as my resignation as Major in the Reserve Corps

and your letter of February 9th, in which you ask me to state my reasons for resigning, I have only the following to say for I had thought the Secretary of War would be especially anxious to waive the rule of which you speak: The War Department has over 1000 letters to and from me during the last ten years while I was on secret payroll of the Military Intelligence Division. It seems rather strange after these years of direct communication, the Department should wish me to go through channels. However, my reason for resigning is that I do not approve of the policies of Military Intelligence Division and therefore no longer wish my name identified with this division. My resignation is unconditional and without rancor of any sort.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Herbert O. Yardley.

(Incl-4)

I can see no other course open than to accept this resignation.

*Alfred T. Smith*  
Alfred T. Smith,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S., G-2.

4 inclosures  
"A" to "D".  
jsc

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 27, 1931.

*Case closed by Corp  
with Co's Resignation  
To be advised with file  
MAR 30 1931  
10038-297  
WAR DEPARTMENT*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Major Herbert O. Yardley, MI-Reserve.

I desire to report a matter which came to my notice on the 26th instant.

With reference to inclosures herewith, inclosure "A" is a copy of a letter to the Secretary of War dated January 31, 1931, containing the resignation of one Major Herbert O. Yardley, of the Military Intelligence Reserves,

Inclosure "B" is a copy of letter to Captain M.F. Shepherd, Unit Instructor, from Major Yardley dated February 24, 1931, in which Yardley refers to his letter of resignation.

It appears that upon receipt of the resignation letter by The Adjutant General, this communication was referred to the Corps Area Commanders concerned for necessary action and when passing through the unit instructor brought forth the letter marked "B".

The letter marked "A", with indorsements, has just been referred to this Division for recommendation bearing on the matter of the resignation.

AA

This correspondence was handed me with a memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel O.S. Albright of my Communications Section, dated March 24, 1931 (marked "C"), in which Major Yardley's previous service with this Division is narrated. The tone of Major Yardley's letter marked "B" prompted Colonel Albright to state the particulars as indicated in his memorandum ("C").

On March 26, 1931, the inclosed copy of notice from the Saturday Evening Post, March 28, 1931, was handed me, see "D".

Due to the nature of this matter and possible consequences, I bring this to your notice.



MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
IN REPLYING REFER TO

WAR  
OFFICE OF  
WAS

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, G-2  
WASHINGTON

Reply: C. J. S.  
Inclosure "C"  
to memo. dated  
March 27, 1931  
gives a narrative  
of the whole matter.  
Have advised by  
my Finance Section  
that operations began  
in New York office,  
S. D. deposit of \$1250  
per month deposited  
in a New York bank.  
This Division supplied  
\$833 per month toward  
this account. If  
was paid from this  
fund as well as  
others employed in  
this work with him.  
The MIA portion of  
funds came under  
"Contingency MIA" and

29  
were accounted  
for on Government  
Confidential vouchers.  
Nothing is known  
of the source or  
accounting of  
the portion of  
funds contributed  
by the S. D.

A.T.

Aug 27

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

136

Mar

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, G-2  
WASHINGTON

CHIEF OF STAFF:

to: Major Hert

port a matter wh

to inclosures k  
Secretary of War  
of one Major Hert  
IVES,

Reply: C. J. S.



COPY

Worthington, Indiana,

January 31, 1931.

The Honorable Secretary of War,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that you accept this  
as my resignation as Major in the Reserve Corps.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Herbert G. Yardley.

A

"A"

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1931.

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL ALFRED T. SMITH, A. C. of S., G-2.

Subject: Activities of Mr. H. O. Yardley.

1. Your attention is invited to a letter from Mr. H. O. Yardley, dated February 24, 1931, (copy appended hereto) requesting that his resignation as Major in the Military Intelligence Reserve be accepted. The reason for his resignation, as stated in his letter, in connection with the previous history of Mr. Yardley's activities seems to make it advisable that the recently installed A. C. of S., G-2, be fully informed concerning all the past circumstances of this case, with which the former A. C. of S., G-2, Colonel (now Brigadier General) Stanley H. Ford, was familiar

2. At the beginning of the World War, Mr. Yardley, who at that time was a clerk in the code section of the Department of State, was given a commission as 1st Lieutenant (afterward promoted to Captain and Major) and was placed in charge of the code and cipher solution service of the Military Intelligence Division. This service was employed in the solution of intercepted enemy messages written in secret code or cipher. During the war Mr. Yardley built up this service and operated it in a very satisfactory manner and was awarded the D.S.M. for his war work. Shortly after the armistice, the activities of the code and cipher solution service were discontinued in Washington, but Mr. Yardley, having obtained his discharge from the army, was sent to New York in his civilian capacity under secret instructions from the Military Intelligence Division to establish a similar service in that city for the purpose of solving code and cipher messages of any foreign country which could be obtained and which would prove of interest to the United States Government. Salaries of Mr. Yardley and his force and the New York office rent were paid from Military Intelligence Division funds supplemented by additional funds furnished to the Military Intelligence Division by the Department of State for the purpose. Mr. Yardley's reports were made direct to the Military Intelligence Division. The Military Intelligence Division furnished copies of all reports to the Department of State.

These activities of Mr. Yardley in New York were necessarily secret and were camouflaged by his operating as a compiling company for commercial codes with no apparent connection with the government. Mr. Yardley was commissioned Major, M. I. Reserve, in May, 1921, which commission he has held to date.

3. When the undersigned reported for duty in the Military Intelligence Division in July 1928, he was placed in charge of the Communications Section of the Military Intelligence Division, under the supervision of which section Mr. Yardley's activities in New York were conducted. Upon investigation by the undersigned it was thought that certain changes should be made in the organization of these activities.

4. From the War Department viewpoint, the main reason for the continuance of this activity after the war had ended was to assure a continuity of training in this technically difficult activity. It is obviously necessary that a trained organization of this character be ready to operate when needed in time of war, and therefore the War Department must continue this training in time of peace, since there is no civilian vocation from which experts in this line can be drawn. The object of this peace-time training must be the development of trained personnel, or at least a nucleus thereof, ready to take the field, five, ten, fifteen or twenty years hence as the case may be.

5. After peace had been declared the information furnished by the solved code messages ceased to be of value to the War Department, but continued to be of particular interest to the Department of State. The interests of the Department of State could only be served by actually obtaining copies of current coded messages, which was done by Mr. Yardley through certain secret personal contacts made by him and by the use of funds furnished him for the purpose by the Military Intelligence Division.

6. a. It was evident that the War Department's objective in this activity, i. e., training, could be accomplished without actually obtaining copies of current code messages, which, though of great interest to the Department of State, as a matter of fact involved a technical violation of law.

b. It was further evident that the War Department objective was not being accomplished by the organization of Mr. Yardley's section in New York, since this objective requires arrangements for the replacement of age by youth as time goes on. Mr. Yardley's section consisted of Mr. Yardley himself, another man, and a married woman with a family, these three being the cryptanalytical experts. Three additional women were employed as stenographers, file clerks, and typists. The expert staff of three were getting older each day and there was no arrangement for replace-



ment or addition by young blood.

c. It was also evident that the operation of this activity was not a proper function of the General Staff, provided it could be taken over and operated by an existing operating branch of the service. The Signal Corps, which was already responsible for the compilation of all codes and ciphers employed by the Army and for the interception of enemy messages in war, seemed the logical agency to operate code and cipher solution, since this latter activity was so closely related to code and cipher compilation and required the same class of expert technician.

7. While the reorganization of Mr. Yardley's section was being considered, the new Secretary of State, Mr. Stimson, soon after he came into office in March 1929, informally notified the Military Intelligence Division that he considered the activities of Mr. Yardley's office unethical, and that the Department of State would discontinue the subscription of funds for that purpose after September 1929. The withdrawal of funds by the Department of State made it impossible to continue Mr. Yardley's activities. In the meantime Army Regulations had been changed (Changes No. 1 - A. R. 105-5, May 10, 1929) to relieve the Military Intelligence Division of the responsibility for the solution of codes and ciphers and to place this responsibility upon the Signal Corps.

8. As a result of the foregoing circumstances Mr. Yardley's activities were discontinued on Nov. 1, 1929, his office in New York closed, and all the records of his office were taken over by the Chief Signal Officer and brought to Washington. Since that time the Chief Signal Officer has begun the training of young men, civilian employees, in this specialty, with the War Department objective, as stated above, in view.

9. When Mr. Yardley's activities were discontinued, he naturally felt keenly the loss of his employment and so expressed himself. However, he and his two technically expert assistants were offered positions by the Chief Signal Officer, but refused to accept in view of the small amount of salary which the Chief Signal Officer could offer. Mr. Yardley's former salary had been \$625 per month; the highest the Chief Signal Officer could offer was \$300 per month.

10. In May 1930, Gen. (then Colonel) Stanley H. Ford, A. C. of S., G-2, told the undersigned that Mr. Yardley had recently approached a prominent publisher with a proposition to write for publication a full account of his activities while employed by the Military Intelligence Division. He also took the publisher entirely into his confidence and told him fully of his activities under the War Department before and after the armistice. The publisher, with whose identity the undersigned was not made acquainted, after conferring with Colonel Ford decided that such a publication would not be for the best interests of the United States and therefore declined to con-

sider Mr. Yardley's proposition. In the meantime the undersigned got in touch with Mr. Yardley, who admitted that he was considering writing an account of his activities for publication. The undersigned pointed out to him that if he made public his activities after the armistice, it was possible that international unpleasantness might arise. He was reminded that he was a reserve officer and as such owed allegiance to the government. Mr. Yardley made vague and very indefinite promises that he would be careful, but would make no promise as to submitting his articles to the War Department for review before publication. Since that time the Chief Signal Officer has communicated several times with Mr. Yardley concerning certain records of his former work, but nothing further concerning his intended publication has arisen.

11. The receipt of his resignation and the rather unusual manner of its expression considered in connection with the circumstances related above, might indicate that Mr. Yardley is making plans to get from under any War Department jurisdiction so that he may be at liberty to publish what he sees fit. Hence this full report of the matter is made at this time.

12. It is not known what steps in the matter could be taken, except to keep interested parties informed. At the time Mr. Yardley first consulted the afore-mentioned publisher, the undersigned recommended to General Ford that the State Department be told about the affair so that if anything came of it that Department would be forewarned, and could also let Mr. Chief Justice Hughes know about it if they saw fit. Mr. Hughes was Secretary of State during Mr. Yardley's activities in New York, and Mr. Yardley has a letter signed by Secretary Hughes commending him for the information he gave the State Department during the first International Arms Conference held in Washington. It is thought that General Ford took the matter up with Mr. Lane of the State Department at that time, but this is not certain. Mr. Yardley, as yet, has committed no overt act which is reprehensible, and in fact may never do so. But there is a chance that he may do so. It seems that all that can be done at the present time is to know the facts, to report them informally to such interested parties as the A. C. of S., G-2, sees fit, especially the State Department, and to await developments. There seems no purpose to be served by not accepting Mr. Yardley's resignation as Major in the Military Intelligence Reserve. However, his request is now being held pending instructions.



O. S. ALBRIGHT,  
Lieut. Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Communications Section.

1 Incl.  
Letter of HOY.  
(copy).



Copy from the Saturday Evening Post, March 28, 1931.

NEXT WEEK

SECRET INKS

By Herbert O. Yardley.

Solving ciphers, stealing enemy codes, reading messages sent in secret inks, all this is an important part of modern warfare. Major Yardley, who was in charge of the American Black Chamber, begins a series of articles on how we unraveled enemy communications.



WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

10087-27  
March 28, 1931

Military Affairs  
JAG

MEMORANDUM for The Assistant Chief of Staff G-2.

Subject: Disclosure of Confidential Information.

1. You have informally presented to this office the following facts:

A civilian was employed by the United States on confidential work and was paid by Government funds on confidential vouchers. The employment was discontinued about a year ago; the civilian has now expressed an intention of writing and publishing a series of articles in connection with his activities under the Government. Parts of these activities, which occurred during war-time (when the man was in the military service as an officer), would be harmless if disclosed. Another part, which occurred after the war, might prove harmful. It is not known what he intends to publish. He has committed no overt act. It is not known that he has retained any records in connection with his previous activities. An announcement has been published in the Saturday Evening Post that the articles will commence next week, and it appears from the advance notice that the articles will be harmless. However, you fear that he may make disclosures which may be harmful, either from memory or from any retained copies of documents which he may possess. He is now an officer in the Officers' Reserve Corps, but is not on active duty and his work for the Government was not performed in that capacity. He has recently tendered his resignation as a major in the M. I. Reserve, but the resignation has not yet been accepted.

2. You inquire whether the resignation should be accepted, and if it is accepted, or if it is not accepted, what can be done to prevent the publication.

3. There is no law known to this office which would render this individual liable to any prosecution or penalty as a Reserve Officer for any disclosure under the circumstances above stated, and the acceptance of his resignation as a Reserve Officer will, in the opinion of this office, be without legal effect in the premises. Whether his

resignation should be accepted, whether he should be discharged, or whether he should be retained as a Reserve Officer is a question of policy as to which this office expresses no opinion.

4. It is doubtful whether the case will come under any statute under which the individual concerned could be prosecuted in the civil courts. The facts presented to this office are too scanty to permit of a definite opinion. Attention is invited to the following provisions of law which might be of use if the necessary facts could be established (Act of June 15, 1917, ch. 30, 40 Stat. 218; 50 USC 31, 32, 34):

"Section 1. \* \* \* (d) whoever, lawfully or unlawfully having possession of, access to, control over, or being intrusted with any document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, or note relating to the national defense, willfully communicates or transmits or attempts to communicate or transmit the same to any person not entitled to receive it, or willfully retains the same and fails to deliver it on demand to the officer or employee of the United States entitled to receive it; \* \* \* shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.

"Sec. 2. (a) Whoever, with intent or reason to believe that it is to be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of a foreign nation, communicates, delivers, or transmits, or attempts to, or aids or induces another to, communicate, deliver, or transmit, to any foreign government, or to any faction or party or military or naval force within a foreign country, whether recognized or unrecognized by the United States, or to any representative, officer, agent, employee, subject, or citizen thereof, either directly or indirectly, any document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, note, instrument, appliance, or information relating to the national defense, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than twenty years: \* \* \*

\* \* \*



"Sec. 4. If two or more persons conspire to violate the provisions of sections two or three of this title, and one or more of such persons does any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each of the parties to such conspiracy shall be punished as in said sections provided in the case of the doing of the act the accomplishment of which is the object of such conspiracy. Except as above provided conspiracies to commit offenses under this title shall be punished as provided by section thirty-seven of the Act to codify, revise, and amend the penal laws of the United States approved March fourth, nineteen hundred and nine.

\*

\*

\*\*

In this connection, attention is also invited to section 37, Act of March 4, 1909 (35 Stat. 1096; 18 USC 88):

"If two or more persons conspire either to commit any offense against the United States, or to defraud the United States in any manner or for any purpose, and one or more of such parties do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each of the parties to such conspiracy shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more than two years, or both."

5. If none of these provisions are applicable, the only remedy which this office can suggest is the institution of suit for a prohibitory injunction against the individual or against the publishing company concerned or both, on behalf of the United States. This would have to be undertaken by the Department of Justice. It is doubtful whether a case for injunctive action can be made out. The situation is, however, somewhat analogous to that obtaining in the case of a former employee who is about to disclose trade secrets of his employer or confidential information obtained by reason of his employment. In this connection attention is invited to the excerpts from Volume 32, of Corpus Juris, p. 42, et seq, attached hereto. As I have orally informed Colonel Albright, I am not aware that such action in this kind of a case has ever been tried; but on general principles of equity, it might be successful. I regard it, however, as a long shot.

For The Judge Advocate General:

*W. A. Graham*

W. A. Graham  
Lieutenant-Colonel, Judge Advocate  
Chief of Section.

1 Incl.-



EXCERPTS QUOTED FROM VOLUME 32, CORPUS JURIS  
P. 42, ET SEQ.

"Sec. 21. \* \* \* An injunction may be obtained to prevent an irreparable injury, even though no such injury has yet occurred. If such injury is threatened and impending to property rights, an injunction will be granted. It is not necessary to wait for the actual occurrence of an injury which it is shown may be reasonably expected. The remedy by interlocutory injunction being preventive in its nature, it is not necessary that a wrong should have been actually committed before a court of equity will interfere, since, if this was required, it would in most cases defeat the very purpose for which the relief is sought, by allowing the commission of the act which complainant seeks to restrain.

"Sec. 22. \* \* \* It is not sufficient ground for an injunction that the injurious acts may possibly be committed or that injury may possibly result from the acts sought to be prevented; but there must be at least a reasonable probability that the injury will be done if no injunction is granted, and not a mere fear or apprehension. Injunctions will not be granted merely to allay the fears and apprehensions of individuals, which, it has been said, may exist without substantial reasons and be absolutely groundless. In these circumstances the mere fact that an injunction would not injure defendant will not authorize its issuance. Especially is the principle applicable where the injury is not certain to occur if defendant is not enjoined, and on the other hand an injury would certainly occur if the injunction was granted. \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*  
"Sec. 31. \* \* \* An injury to be irreparable need not be such as to render its repair physically impossible; but it is irreparable when it cannot be adequately compensated in damages, or where there exists no certain pecuniary standard for the measurement of the damages. \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*  
"Sec. 211. \* \* \* A trade secret is a property right which equity will protect by injunction against unwarranted

disclosure and unauthorized use by others than the rightful owner, and it is immaterial whether the process or plan constituting the secret is or is not a patentable invention. While it may be said that injunction is the proper remedy because an action at law does not furnish an adequate remedy, nevertheless the general requirement for relief is a violation of trust and confidence. All that the owner of a trade secret is entitled to is protection from a breach of contract or confidence against one to whom he has confided the secret and those to whom he may divulge it. He is not entitled to the aid of equity in preserving his secret from becoming known to the general public; and anyone who nonestly and fairly comes into possession of the secret has the right to use it or to sell it and equity will not restrain him from so doing. \* \* \*

\* \* \*

"215. \* \* \* Employers of one having a trade secret, who are under express contract, or a contract implied from their confidential relation to their employer, not to disclose the secret, will be enjoined from divulging or using the same to the injury of their employer, whether before or after they have left his employ, \* \* \*

\* \* \*

"217. \* \* \* An important extension of the principle stated has been made in decisions which hold that the general rules there stated are not confined to secret processes of manufacture or methods of doing business, but have a much wider application, \* \* \*

\* \* \*

"429. \* \* \* An injunction will issue to restrain any unauthorized appropriation of public property, as for instance an appropriation of public property for private uses, \* \* \*

AC 201 (1-31-31)Res.  
Yardley, Herbert Osborne

APR 1 1931  
WAR DEPARTMENT

10029-299 1931

Acceptance of Resignation of Reserve Commission.

EKH-463.

Thru: The Commanding General, Fifth Corps Area.

Major Herbert Osborne Yardley,  
Worthington,  
Indiana.

1. Referring to your communication of January 31, 1931,  
your resignation as Major, Military Intelligence  
Reserve, is hereby accepted, by direction of the President,  
to take effect this date.

2. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this notice on the  
inclosed A. G. O. Form 701, supplying signature, place and  
date in the spaces provided therefor.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Adjutant General.

1 Incl.  
Form 701

Copy to: The Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3. ✓



APR 11 277 1931

132 Westminister Street  
Springfield, Mass.  
April 8, 1931

The Director of Military Intelligence  
The General Staff  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

A friend called my attention to the fact that Herbert Yardley was to publish a series of articles on Secret Inks in the Saturday Evening Post. The first article appeared in the issue of April 4th.

As a member of the reserve corps of the Military Intelligence Division and as a former officer who played a part in the work of the Military Intelligence Division in its section on Secret Inks, I cannot protest too strongly against Yardley's action in writing such an article and against the action of the Curtis Publishing Co. in publishing it. This article would never have been permitted to be published in England, France, or Germany. It serves no good purpose to broadcast such information.

Yardley has done a lot of romancing and has given much misinformation. He knew very little about what was being done in the Ink Section. He has made a serious mistake in making public the following information:

- a) the principle of dampening and methods for detecting whether or not a document has been dampened
- b) the use of iodine vapor
- c) the chemical nature of "P" ink and its relation to argyrol
- d) the methods of carrying and concealing secret inks
- e) the methods of tampering with seals, envelopes, etc.

It is my firm belief that some of the above mentioned facts, especially items a, c, and d were not known to ten men in this country.

I hardly feel that I would be justified in making use of such information for the preparation of an article on Secret Inks for the Journal of the American Chemical Society and I am confident that if I submitted such an article the editor would reject it.

It is my opinion that Yardley intends to write a series of articles based on various letters which we developed during the War. In many of these letters the visible English text contains very broad hints on how to develop them. If he does intend to publish such a series I cannot urge too strongly that some steps be taken to edit such articles before publication.

Very sincerely yours,

*A. J. McGrail*

Captain, M. I. Res.

APR 23 1931

NOTED-DEPT. CHIEF OF BUREAU

RECORDED-CHIEF OF BUREAU

10037-277

April 15, 1931.

Captain A. J. McGrail, MI-Res.,  
12 Westminster Street,  
Springfield, Massachusetts.

My dear Captain McGrail:

Your letter of April 8th in connection with the articles written by Herbert O. Yardley is acknowledged. I appreciate the fact that you, as an officer of the Military Intelligence Reserve, have written this letter to the Director of Military Intelligence. Please rest assured that the points brought out in your letter will be given consideration.

Again thanking you for your interest, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Alfred T. Smith.  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S., G-2.

sb/hcm

RECEIVED  
APR 16 1931  
*May*



WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1931.

10039-299  
WAR DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM for Colonel Alfred T. Smith, A. C. of S., G-2;

Subject: "The American Black Chamber."

1. In accordance with verbal instructions recently received from you, there is submitted herewith a very abbreviated review of the book, "The American Black Chamber," by Herbert O. Yardley.
2. In general, the book is a self glorification of the author's activity in establishing and operating the Code and Cipher Solution Bureau of the War Department, both during the War and after the War until 1929. The book contains many unwarranted exaggerations and distorted statements. While most of the basic facts in the book are correct, the narration of details is in most cases so distorted that the exaggerations would seem to be apparent to the casual reader. However, since the author was a former government employee, and if the statements contained in the book are taken at their face value, they may cause protests from foreign governments concerned.
3. Taking the book as a whole, it is an example of a violation of confidence by a former trusted employee of the Government. In this respect it has a tendency to have a very bad effect upon the present civilian employees of the Government engaged in confidential work. The author has made public highly confidential matter and has received monetary consideration therefor with impunity. In consequence of this there may be a temptation on the part of present employees to follow his example. This effect, however, is highly problematical.
4. Chapter 1 contains a narrative of the author's triumphant emergence from obscurity. It contains nothing that would be prejudicial to the United States in the eyes of foreign governments. It does, however, contain many unwarranted innuendoes to the effect that no one else in the War Department knew anything about codes and ciphers. This statement is in keeping with the general tenor of the book.
5. Chapter 2 shows the organization of the Code and Cipher Section under the War Department, but contains nothing that would



be prejudicial to the United States in the eyes of foreign governments. It also contains the usual amount of exaggerations with reference to the author's alleged importance and the War Department's alleged deficiencies.

6. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 show the war organization and methods of the Secret Ink Section. These chapters contain matter which thus divulged violates the confidence of both the British and French Governments, from whom the United States obtained much information concerning the employment and detection of secret inks. They also contain matter which has always been considered secret, such as the means and methods employed by the United States in the use and detection of secret inks. The expose of British and French methods is no doubt highly objectionable to these Governments and may cause protests from them.

7. Chapters 6 and 7 contain a narrative of the solution of certain German messages. They contain nothing, however, that is prejudicial to the United States from the viewpoint of foreign governments.

8. Chapter 8 contains a narrative of the alleged stealing of Spanish diplomatic codes by the United States during the War. Since Spain was a neutral, this narrative would probably be objectionable to the old Spanish regime. The present Spanish regime may not, however, have any interest in the matter.

9. Chapters 9, 10, and 11 contain a narrative of the author's experiences in attempting to obtain access to and information from the cryptographic bureaus of the French and British Governments. It would seem that these chapters contain nothing to which the French or British Governments would take exception. Chapter 9, however, also contains a statement that diplomatic messages of the following governments were intercepted and read: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Spain, and Panama. Since all these governments were either neutrals or allies, it would seem that they might properly object to such past procedure.

10. Chapter 12 contains a narrative of a plot to assassinate President Wilson at the Peace Conference. The author strongly insinuates that this plot was instigated by the Entente, and that President Wilson later died as the result of this activity. The War Department records show that a plot to kill President Wilson at that time was entered into by a certain group of communists (Italians and Russian Jews). The news of this plot was reported to the War Department from United States' military attaches in Rome, Brazil, and Costa Rica. There is nothing in War Department files to indicate that such a plot was instigated by the Entente

powers or that they were connected with it in any way. Such a statement by the author would not doubt be highly objectionable to England, France, and Italy should it come to their notice.

11. Chapters 13 to 20 contain a narrative of the continuation of the Cipher Bureau under the War and State Departments from the Armistice to its discontinuation in 1929.

12. Chapters 14, 15, and 16 contain a complete narrative of the solution of the Japanese diplomatic and military codes from 1919 to 1929. Copies of diplomatic messages exchanged between the Japanese Foreign Office and the Japanese ambassadors to the United States and England are shown. This activity is shown as particularly evident during the first Disarmament Conference held in Washington in 1921. It is highly probable that the publication of such procedure may result in protest from the Japanese Government.

13. Chapter 17 contains the author's account of how he received the Distinguished Service Medal, and his experiences with a blonde. There is nothing particularly interesting or instructive in this chapter.

14. Chapter 18 contains a narrative of the decipherment of Mexican diplomatic ciphers during the year 1923, and further states that the diplomatic codes of the following countries were solved: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, France, Germany, Japan, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Russia, San Salvador, Santo Domingo, the Soviet Union, and Spain. While this statement seems highly exaggerated, and War Department records do not bear it out in full, nevertheless it may cause protests by the governments mentioned.

15. Chapter 19 deals with the alleged deficiencies of the present State Department codes. This chapter is of no special interest.

16. The last chapter, chapter 20, deals with the discontinuance of the Cipher Bureau, and is of no particular interest.

O. S. ALBRIGHT,  
Lieut. Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Communications Section.



HERBERT O. YARDLEY  
WORTHINGTON, INDIANA

June 6, 1931.

Mr. Frederick Sullens,  
Jackson News,  
Jackson, Miss.

Dear Mr. Sullens:

It is inconceivable to me that American officials should deny the existence of the American Black Chamber, which was supported secretly by War Department and State Department funds and secluded in a brownstone front in New York.

If necessary I can give you the archive number of the official memorandum signed by the Secretary of War in 1919 authorizing the creation of this secret bureau. This memorandum authorizes the expenditure of \$100,000 per annum, fifty thousand by the State Department and fifty thousand by Military Intelligence. It also not only directs that I should be the chief of this bureau but recites the names and salaries of my assistants.

Our first home was 3 East Thirty-eighth Street, New York City, only a few steps off Fifth Avenue. When our lease was sold to a real estate operator, we were forced to move. Our next home was selected at 141 East Thirty-seventh Street. When our files were rifled by the secret agent of a foreign government, we were again obliged to move to 52 Vanderbilt Avenue. Here we remained hidden behind the fictitious name of The Code Compiling Company, until 1929, until the the present Secretary of State, Mr. Stimson, ordered the doors closed.

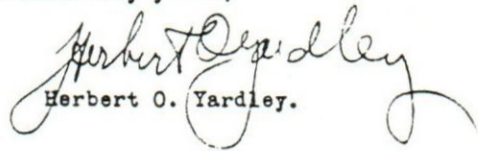
In order to protect ourselves from the prying eyes of foreign secret agents, we incorporated, as a business company, ostensibly manufacturing and selling commercial code books. In this manner both I and my employees were enabled to give our friends a definite address.

When the American Black Chamber was closed, should I have desired to continue in my profession my only employer could have been a foreign government. One of the great powers, learning through their secret agents of the abandonment of cryptography in the United States, approached me with a view to my creating such a bureau and training their subjects in the science of cryptography. Although I have felt no hesitancy in revealing the secrets of the American Black Chamber, I did not feel that I could accept such a position for my knowledge would have been turned against my native country in the reading of her diplomatic secrets. The United States Government paid me \$7,500 per annum. This foreign power offered twice this amount and expenses for myself and family.



It is utterly ridiculous for the United States Government to depend upon antiquated methods for the encipherment of its messages. If it wished to adapt scientific methods it could discharge ninety per cent of its code clerks, have instantaneous encipherment and decipherment, instead of long hours of inaccurate labor, and render its secret dispatches absolutely indecipherable. This would be accomplished by a machine cipher. At small expense such a machine can be constructed. If all governments send their messages in such a system there would be no American Black Chamber or any similar organization in any government. Cryptography as a science would die because human ingenuity could not unravel messages enciphered by this means.

Most sincerely yours,

  
Herbert O. Yardley.

JACKSON DAILY NEWS

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

FREDERICK SULLENS  
EDITOR

JACKSON, MISS. June 10, 1931.

10029-299  
JUN 12 1931  
WAR DEPARTMENT

Capt. Herbert O. Yardley,  
Worthington, Indiana.

My Dear Capt. Yardley:

I have read with more than passing interest your letter of June 6th in reference to "The American Black Chamber."

It so happens that I served with the Military Intelligence Division MI-4, counter-espionage.

As an officer in that division I felt that I was, and still am, under sacred obligation not to reveal the contents of any papers that passed through my hands.

Many of the cases I handled were of absorbing interest, and far more entertaining than any fiction I have read in recent years, but they will never appear in print insofar as I am concerned.

It was with profound surprise, therefore, that I read your series of articles in The Saturday Evening Post relative to codes, cryptograms and ciphers.

Frankly, I do not feel that you should have revealed any of the secrets of your section in MI. Journalistic ethics, if no other reason, should have caused you to refrain from doing so.

Very truly,  
*Frederick Sullens*

RECEIVED  
1931 JUN 12 AM 11 06  
RECORD SECTION  
M.I.D.

JUN 16 1931

NOTED - CHIEF OF STAFF  
NOTED - DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

*Handwritten initials*

039-277  
1931  
WAR DEPARTMENT

June 18, 1931.

Mr. Frederick Sullens, Editor,  
Jackson Daily News,  
Jackson, Miss.,

My dear Sir:

Acknowledgment is made of the receipt of the copy of your letter to Mr. Herbert O. Yardley, dated June 10, 1931, and of his letter to you under date of June 6, 1931, and in reply I desire to state that the War Department is deeply appreciative of your loyal and patriotic point of view.

Very sincerely yours,

Alfred T. Smith,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S., G-3.

ham

MAILED JUN 18 1931  
ccy

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE SECRETARY, GENERAL STAFF

DISPOSITION SLIP

Subject of paper:

To	TALLY No.	DATE
The Assistant Secretary of War		
	A. C. of S., G-1	
	A. C. of S., G-2	
	A. C. of S., G-3	
	A. C. of S., G-4	
	A. C. of S., W. P. D.	
	The Adjutant General	
	Secretary, General Staff	
	Legislation Branch	
	Publicated Branch	
	Executive for Reserve Affairs	

6/16/31

For—

- Necessary action. .... Draft of reply.
- Correction. .... Direct reply.
- Note and return. .... Note and file.
- Remark and recommendation. .... File.
- Comment or concurrence. .... Signature.
- Inviting attention (of notation) of Sec. War. P. C. of S.

*Jim Woodley leaves 5-2 to acknowledge receipt of letter from Mr. Sullens stating that he is leaving responsibility of his paper and returned point by mail*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
O. C. OF S.—FORM NO. 3

Director of W. P. D.  
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1928



Copy of  
EDITORIAL in "The Japanese American" 10039-299 1931  
(Published Semi-weekly at 350 West 31st Street)  
(New York, N. Y.)

WAR DEPARTMENT

August 5th, 1931.

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THE AMERICAN BLACK CHAMBER.

Under the above title Herbert O. Yardley, former employee of the State Department and later of the War Department, has written an immoral book. It is immoral because it boastfully narrates the pilfering, the snooping, the stealing, the spying practiced by agents under his supervision or under the supervision of "Higher-ups."

No decent-minded man can read this book without a sense of revulsion. It is as repulsive as a book depicting a house of prostitution. That the practice of espionage and code-stealing is common, perhaps, among most governments is no defense for such a book.

We would not have a thief come to us and proudly tell us that he is a thief. There are thieves and thieves in this world, but we do not care to hear any of them shout from the housetops how many mansions he has broken into, how many safes he has opened, how much money he has stolen, how many jewels he has pilfered, without getting caught.

The American "black chamber," whose business, according to Mr. Yardley, was to decode and decipher intercepted messages of foreign governments, functioned from about the time America entered the World War to 1929. In the performance of its nefarious functions its agents were employed even in stealing or breaking into a foreign consulate to photograph the secret code used by the government which the consulate represented.

At first the "black chamber" was located in the War College at Washington. But in 1919 it was, in order to dodge the vigilant eyes of foreign diplomats, removed to New York where it secluded itself in "a four-story brownstone front in the East Thirties." There it was allowed a budget of \$100,000 a year.

To the credit of Secretary Kellogg he it said that it was he who caused the dissolution of the "black chamber." No doubt the dark practices of the "chamber" offended the sensibilities of the Secretary who had launched and brought to a successful conclusion the Peace Pact of Paris.

The book devotes three chapters of some seventy pages to intercepted code messages which alleged to have passed between the Japanese Embassy at Washington, and between the Japanese Government and the Japanese Embassy at London. It tells in considerable detail how they were decoded, how the "black chamber" enlisted the services of a former missionary in Japan to translate the decoded Japanese messages into English, etc.

None of these messages, if they are authentic, shows anything improper on the part of the Tokyo Government or of the London or the Washington Embassy. But the confession that they were intercepted and utilized to give the American Government a certain advantage in its negotiations with Japan, adds little to the credit of the great Republic.

The "black" practice may be justified as a war-time measure. To perpetrate it in time of peace is entirely another matter.

In saying this we have no thought of singling out the American Government for condemnation. Far from it. We know that there are worse culprits in other lands. The activities of Scotland Yard, for instance, are almost a matter of common knowledge.



It is known for one thing that the zeal of Scotland Yard agents was partly, even largely, responsible for rupture of the 1924 Lausanne Conference between Turkey and Great Britain. Those agents had established themselves at Lausanne, and intercepted the Turkish delegation's official dispatches, the substance of which was not always complimentary to Lord Curzon and which naturally put him in no mood to be complimentary to the Turks.

In the face of such incidents and in the face of such narratives as is told in the Yardley book, is it unreasonable to presume that during the London Naval Conference the official code dispatches of the foreign delegations were all intercepted and decoded by British agents for the benefit of Downing Street? Is it unreasonable to presume that even at the Geneva Naval Conference of 1927, the code messages of the foreign governments and delegations concerned were not safe from the prying eyes of prowling agents?

It is perhaps impossible to exterminate the "black" practice as to exterminate thieves and prostitutes. But as a matter of principle, the nations should declare themselves opposed to it. The American Government which has abolished the "black chamber" might well ask the Powers to accept the principle that except in time of war the pilfering of foreign official messages should not be tolerated.

K. K. KAWAKAMI.



Baltimore 39 259

# U. S. CRYPTOGRAPHER'S BOOK AROUSES JAPAN

## Kawakami Says Disclosures Of Work Done On Secret Official Messages And Pangborn-Herndon Incident Stir Feeling Of Distrust

By K. K. KAWAKAMI

[Special Correspondence of The Sun]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.

SOME TIME AGO a Mr. Herbert O. Yardley, one-time telegraph operator of the State Department and later cryptographer par excellence of the War Department, wrote a colorful book, depicting, as he said, the nefarious activities of the "American Black Chamber," which he himself had organized and operated for some thirteen years, first at the War College and then in a secret retreat in New York.

The author and his publisher will no doubt experience a sneaky feeling of satisfaction if they know that the book has created something more than a sensation in Japan and that it may yet prove the cause, at least a contributing cause, of a Cabinet crisis at Tokyo.

THE RUB of the matter is, of course, the three chapters of some seventy pages in which Mr. Yardley tells us that in about July, 1919, his "superiors" "begged me to turn all my efforts to the unraveling of Japanese secrets"; that in six months or so he, with the aid of an ex-missionary in Japan, succeeded in deciphering and decoding the Japanese official messages, the copies of which were, presumably, obtained from the cable companies; that immediately preceding and during the Washington conference of 1921-22 he decoded and translated practically all the dispatches which passed between the Japanese Government and the Japanese Embassies at Washington and London, as well as between these two embassies; that these translations were utilized by the American delegation in driving a bargain against the Japanese and that in recognition of this service he was given a distinguished service medal by the War Department, and so on.

NO SOONER had the book appeared than the Osaka Mainichi and the Tokyo Nichi-Nichi had their New York correspondents interview Mr. Yardley somewhere in Indiana, and published, along with the interview, the substance of the above-mentioned three chapters under sensational headlines by no means flattering to America. In the next few days they published interviews with unnamed members of the Diet. Some of the headlines read: "Betrayal of International Trust," "Treachery at the Washington Conference," "Disgrace to the Convener of the Conference." The translation of the book is still being published serially in the two newspapers.

The book contains some thirty of the confidential Japanese dispatches deciphered by Mr. Yardley. The most important of these relate to the

Cabinet. Many hold him responsible for his failure to change the diplomatic code immediately before and in the course of the conference in order to baffle prowling agents.

The accusation is unreasonable, but it furnishes the opposition and those unfriendly to the Foreign Minister with an effective weapon with which to attack not only him but the whole Cabinet. One can well imagine what fireworks will enliven the coming session of the Diet.

In the midst of the mingled humiliation and indignation caused by the revelation of the book, the Japanese have not stopped to think that in espionage and cryptography Europe is much more "advanced" than America, and that the American Black Chamber was but an imitation of, say, Scotland Yard. If the Japanese had a little more sense of humor, they would thank Mr. Yardley, instead of denouncing him as they are doing, for writing this book which serves a very useful purpose to unsuspecting and trustful diplomats. They should also thank the American Government, which values the freedom of speech so highly that it would not suppress the publication of such books.

I HAVE MENTIONED Scotland Yard as an example of the more experienced, more time-honored European counterparts of the American Black Chamber. Some time ago I read in the London *New Statesman* an article deploring the unscrupulousness of this British institution. It seems that at the time of the 1922 Lausanne Peace Conference between England and Turkey, Scotland Yard agents established themselves in that Swiss city with the object of spying on the Turkish delegation and of intercepting and decoding the secret official dispatches between Ismet Pasha and his home Government. Every morning, before the opening of the parley, Lord Curzon, the chief British delegate, had upon his desk the decoded messages, some of which contained words so uncomplimentary to him that he often entered the conference hall in a fighting mood. The inevitable result, according to the *New Statesman* writer, was the rupture of the conference.

It seems unreasonable to ask if the Japanese official messages between London and Tokyo prior to and during the Washington conference were read by Scotland Yard as well as by the American Black Chamber. One may even ask if during the 1930 London conference American and Japanese messages, or for that matter, all foreign messages, were decoded by Scotland Yard.

HOWEVER, two wrongs do not make a right.





COPY OF ARTICLE IN  
"The Japanese American,"  
August 22, 1931.

10037-247  
7

AMERICAN BLACK CHAMBER DARKENS JAPAN'S POLITICAL SKY.  
Mr. Yardley's Sensational Disclosures of "Stolen" Japanese  
Code Messages Are Worrying Cabinet.

By K. K. KAWAKAMI  
(Our Editorial Adviser)

Washington, D.C., Aug. 20.-- In THE JAPANESE AMERICAN for August 5, I wrote an editorial discussing Mr. Herbert O. Yardley's sensational book "The American Black Chamber," describing in detail the nefarious activities of the cryptographic bureau, which he himself organized and operated for more than thirteen years first at the War College at Washington and then in a secret lair in New York.-- THE EDITOR.

The author and his publisher will no doubt experience a sneaky feeling of satisfaction if they know that the book has created something more than a sensation in Japan and that it may yet prove the cause, at least a contributing cause, of a cabinet crisis at Tokyo.

The rub of the matter is, of course, the three chapters of some seventy pages in which Mr. Yardley tells us that in about July, 1919, his "superiors" "begged me to turn all my efforts to the unravelling of Japanese secrets,"-- that in six months or so he, with the aid of an ex-missionary in Japan, succeeded in deciphering and decoding the Japanese official messages, the copies of which were, presumably, obtained from the cable companies,-- that immediately, preceding and during the Washington Conference of 1921-22 he decoded and translated practically all the dispatches which passed between the Japanese



Government and the Japanese Embassies at Washington and London, as well as between these two Embassies,-- that these translations were utilized by the American delegation in driving a bargain against the Japanese, that in recognition of this service he was given a distinguished service medal by the War Department, and so on, so forth.

No sooner had the book appeared than the Osaka Mainichi and the Tokyo Nichi-Nichi had their New York correspondent interview Mr. Yardley somewhere in Indiana, and published, along with the interview, the substance of the above-mentioned three chapters under sensational headlines by no means flattering to America. In the next few days they published interviews with unnamed officials of the Foreign Office, the Navy and the Army, as well as with some members of the Diet. Some of the headlines read "Betrayal of International Trust," "Treachery at the Washington Conference," "Disgrace to the Convener of the Conference." The translation of the book is still being serially published in the newspapers, and will soon appear in book form.

The book contains some thirty of the confidential Japanese dispatches procured and deciphered by Mr. Yardley. The most important are those relating to the Japanese demand for a ratio of 7 as against 10 for America in capital ship strength. While the Japanese delegation were insisting upon 7, the "stolen" messages showed that both they and their home Government had been of the opinion that "it is necessary to avoid any clash with Great Britain and America, particularly America, in regard to the armament question." They showed that "if America pressed Japan rigorously, Japan will give up proposal 1 (for 10-7 ratio),

then proposal 2 (for 10-6 ratio), and that provided the status quo of the Pacific defense is maintained, she will even accept a ten-to-six naval ratio." To quote Mr. Yardley further:

"With this information in its hands, the American Government, if it cared to take advantage of it, could not lose. All it need do was to mark time. Stud poker is not a very difficult game after you see your opponent's hole card."

He was right. Japan did accept the 10-6 ratio.

Now the embarrassing fact is that Baron Shidehara, the Japanese Ambassador to America at the time of the Washington Conference, is at present Foreign Minister in the Wakatsuki Cabinet, and that many hold him responsible for his failure to change the diplomatic code immediately before and in the course of the Conference in order to baffle prowling agents.

The accusation is unreasonable, but it furnishes the opposition and these unfriendly to the Foreign Minister with an effective weapon with which to attack not only him but the whole Cabinet. One can well imagine what fireworks will enliven the coming session of the Diet.

In the midst of the excitement and indignation caused by the disclosures of the book, the Japanese have not stopped to think that in espionage and cryptography Europe is much more "advanced" than America, and that the American Black Chamber is but an imitation of, say Scotland Yard.

If the Japanese had a little more sense of humor, they would thank Mr. Yardley, instead of denouncing him as they are doing, for writing this book which serves a very useful purpose to unsuspecting and trustful diplomats such as ours. They should also thank the American Government which values the freedom of speech so highly



that it would not suppress the publication of such books. I myself condemned the book in my recent editorial in THE JAPANESE AMERICAN, but that editorial was primarily addressed to my American readers. To my readers in Japan, I have a different message to deliver. In fact, in my articles in THE HOCHI SHINBUN, the Tokyo newspaper, whose publisher Mr. Seiji Noma is sending a good-will flier to America, I have emphasized that the United States is by no means a culprit in the questionable practice of intercepting foreign official messages, that she is but a belated emulator of the old world, that Japan should be grateful to both Mr. Yardley and the American Government for this book which has no doubt proved useful and profitable to the Japanese Foreign Office, War and Navy Departments.

I have mentioned Scotland Yard as an example of the more experienced, more time-honored European counterparts of the American Black Chamber. Some time ago I read in the London New Statesman an article deploring the unscrupulousness of this British institution. It seems that at the time of the 1922 Lausanne Peace Conference between England and Turkey, Scotland Yard agents established themselves in that Swiss city with the object of spying the Turkish delegation and of intercepting and decoding the secret official dispatches between Ismet Pasha and his home Government. Every morning, before the opening of the parley, Lord Curzon, the chief British delegate, had upon his desk these decoded messages, some of which contained words so uncomplimentary to him that he often entered the conference hall in fighting mood. The inevitable result, according to the New Statesman writer, was the rapture of the conference.

After reading this article it does not seem unreasonable to



ask if the Japanese official messages between London and Tokyo prior to and during the Washington Conference were read by Scotland Yard as well as by the American Black Chamber. One may even ask if during the 1930 London Conference American and Japanese messages, or for that matter, all foreign messages, were decoded by Scotland Yard.

However, two wrongs do not make a right. That Europe has many Black Chambers is no defense for the American Chamber. Secretary Kellogg deserves a vote of thanks by liberal and forward-looking men and women all over the world for his courage to abolish Mr. Yardley's chamber.

America, having washed her hands of the questionable practice, may logically ask other nations to follow suit. The Black Chamber is a legacy of the mediaeval ages, and has no place in the new world order. Should the United States urge upon the world abolition of the Black Chamber, Japan, we are certain, would be the first nation to second the motion. The American Government can well afford and is well qualified to take the lead in this matter, as it has confessed itself repentant by putting an end to Mr. Yardley's bureau.

If America does not want to take the lead, Japan might step into her shoes. But we fear that Japan is not the proper nation to advance the proposal after she is openly humiliated, as the Japanese think she is, by Mr. Yardley's disclosures. One does not relish the thought of appearing in the role of whining after one is stung.

Suppose that the nations had, upon the instance of the United States or Japan, agreed to abolish all Black Chambers, would that materially improve the situation? We fear we cannot be very sanguine

about it. It is not easy to exterminate an old vice. The nefarious practice of the Black Chamber will probably go on in spite of any international agreement. And yet the moral influence of such an agreement cannot be minimized. It is not dissimilar to the Kellogg Pact. The Peace Pact of Paris has "no teeth"-- it provides no means of punishing the offender. Nevertheless, any government will think twice before it casts the die in violation of it.

To return to Japan, it is highly unfortunate that Pangborn and Herndon flew to Tokyo with no permit and took moving-pictures of fortified areas just at the time when the publication of Mr. Yardley's story in Japanese newspapers has excited suspicion, ill-feeling, and distrust in large circles of the Japanese people. It is to be hoped that this is but a passing phenomenon which will go the way of most newspaper "stunts." Perhaps the present visit of Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh, for whom the Japanese entertain genuine admiration and affection, will go a long way in counteracting the affects of the Yardley book and of the apparent thoughtlessness of Pangborn and Herndon. It is also reassuring that Seiji Yoshihara, under the sponsorship of the Hichi and its publisher Mr. Noma, is to fly across the Pacific and possibly to Washington, bearing with him a message of good-will, and thus returning the call of the distinguished American fliers.



August 20, 1931.

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Letter from Acting Secretary of State re disclosures made in H. O. Yardley's book - "The American Black Chamber".

1. Relative to the letter from the State Department to the Acting Secretary of War, dated August 26, 1931 (FE 894.737), attention is invited to memorandum for the Chief of Staff from this office, dated March 27, 1931, on the subject, Major H. O. Yardley, MI-Reserve, and its enclosures A, B, C and D, the originals of which are attached hereto. Attention is especially invited to enclosure "C" which contains a narrative statement of the matter.

2. War Department records disclose the following:

A memorandum from Brigadier-General H. Churchill, Director, M.I.D., to the Chief of Staff, dated May 18, 1929, submits a plan for the permanent organization for code and cipher investigation and attack. This memorandum, attached hereto, bears the approval of the Chief of Staff, and the "O.K." and initials of Mr. F. L. Folk, the then Acting Secretary of State, from which it appears that the Department of State had been consulted and had concurred in the proposed plan. (Incl. E.)

War Department records further disclose the fact that the Department of State contributed towards this work in monthly installments an approximate total of \$230,404, while this Division contributed approximately \$833.33 per month for the same period, which funds were accounted for on the usual confidential vouchers properly approved.

It is understood from a member of this Division who was present at the time, that the New York office was discontinued as a result of the termination by the State Department of its financial contribution effective with the payment for the month of October 1929. The office was closed the first of November and all civilian personnel including Mr. Yardley were discharged as of that date.

It will be recalled that the matter of Major Yardley's resignation of his reserve commission was carefully gone over by this Division and the Office of the Chief of Staff in the month of March 1931 in connection with certain arti-



cles which were advertised to appear in the Saturday Evening Post under the authorship of that individual, which articles when published contained no objectionable matter. The manuscripts of these articles and the book - "The American Black Chamber" - were not submitted to the War Department for approval prior to publication.

3. A reply to the State Department for the signature of the Acting Secretary of War is attached hereto.

7 encls.  
hca

Alfred P. Smith.  
Colonel, General Staff,  
A. C. of S.

*See 10994-2 M IS 16 May 1919  
filed in Office Chief SC (Mr. Friedman)  
for Memo from Gen. Churchill*

*Delivered to Eng Gen Staff by Col [Wilson?]  
21 Aug 31*

IN REPLY REFER TO:

HEADQUARTERS SECOND CORPS AREA  
OFFICE OF THE CORPS AREA COMMANDER

10059-299 1931  
OHS/s  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNORS ISLAND, N. Y.

September 5, 1931.

Memorandum for Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department,  
State, War & Navy Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Copies of articles from "The Japanese American"  
for August 5 and August 22, 1931, on book "The American  
Black Chamber", by Herbert O. Yardley.

1. Herewith are typed copies of articles appearing in the August 5 and August 22 issues of "The Japanese American" on the above subject. It is thought that these might be of interest to your office for information.

2. These copies were furnished to this office by Captain Donald D. Millikin, MI-Res., and acknowledgment has been made to him for them by this office.

*O. H. Sanders*  
O. H. SANDERS,  
Major, G-2,  
A. C. of S. SECTION.  
RECEIVED  
1931 SEP 11 AM 11 29

Encls. 2.

1931



5

SIP/10038-299

1931

WAR DEPARTMENT

The Honorable

The Secretary of State.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In reply to your letter of August 26, 1931 (FE 894.727), it is of record in the War Department that a branch office of the then Military Intelligence Department was organized, opened and maintained in New York City from about October 1st, 1919, until October 31st, 1929, for the purpose of the "permanent organization for code and cipher investigation and attack". Mr. Yardley, then a Captain, later Major, in the National Army was in charge of that office.

Under date of May 16, 1919, the plan for the establishment of an office for this purpose was submitted to the Chief of Staff for approval, and carried with it a statement that "the Acting Secretary of State has been consulted and concurs in the proposed plan". The original copy of this plan shows the approval by the then Chief of Staff, under date of May 19, 1919, and a brown pencil "O.K." with the initials "F.L.P." (F. L. Polk, Acting Secretary of State). This plan required a joint contribution by the State and War Departments for its maintenance and operation. During the period from July 15, 1919, until October 31, 1929, the Department of State contributed towards this work approximately \$230,404. Contributions from the War Department did not begin until June 30, 1921. Between that date and October 31, 1929, the War Department contributed \$98,808.49. On October 31, 1929, the Department of State terminated its further participation in the matter, thereby necessitating the closing of the New York office and the discharge of all civilian personnel, including Mr. Yardley.

Mr. Yardley was discharged as a Major, National Army, in October 1919, and in 1921 accepted a commission as a Major in the Officers Reserve Corps. His service with the Military Intelligence Division after the termination of his war commission in 1919 was as a civilian. He resigned his reserve commission in April 1931.

It may be stated that none of Mr. Yardley's manuscripts was ever submitted to the War Department for approval prior to publication.

The objective of the War Department in the establishment of the office in New York was the continuation of War Department training in cryptanalysis.







THE BLACK CHAMBER

WAR DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM THE AMERICAN BLACK CHAMBER. BY O. YARDLEY. (Faber and Faber. 15s. net.)

A Black Chamber is "a cryptographic bureau where—at the centre of the web of espionage—specialists are engaged in 'breaking' the cipher telegrams of foreign Governments"; so we learn from the wrapper of this book, the author of which organized an American Black Chamber when the United States entered the War and for twelve years directed its activities. To quote further from the wrapper:—

His extraordinary services were recognized and rewarded by the Distinguished Service Medal; but in 1929 a new Secretary of State ordered the bureau to be disbanded. Now that it has been destroyed, Major Yardley sees no valid reason for withholding its secrets.

The interest of the book is twofold—in the secrets and in the methods employed in unravelling them. In considering the secrets the reader cannot but remember that the authority for them is the author's word and that that was presumably broken when he published them; nor can he fail to regard the book as the retaliation of a secret service agent on a Government which had withdrawn its support from the organization of which he had been the head. The revelations take the form of English versions of coded instructions sent by departments of State of many countries to their diplomatic representatives or hirelings, and also of an account of the devices adopted by secret service agents to possess themselves of documents of interest to their employers—who asked no questions. The devices include what is required for opening safes; but it is to be inferred from the following passage, among others, that the oldest of all solvents was the one most in use:—

He [Captain 'Brown'] had been commissioned for no other reason, as far as I was ever able to determine, than that when a woman agent was required for espionage to tear a secret from some poor devil, he could, on a moment's notice, find a woman to fit any requirement. Old or young, fat or thin, beautiful or homely, blonde or brunette—it made no difference to Captain Brown.

The period covered by the revelations begins with the institution of the Chamber on the entry of the United States into the War and extends over the Washington Armament Conference.

To read the story of the unravelling of codes is to be filled with admiration for the ingenuity of man—both as hider and seeker. The hiders are clever or expert, for instance, in chemistry; but their dodges when explained remain dodges. With the seekers, on the other hand, the explanation often merely heightens the mystery; and it may be some consolation to the average man who reads this book to be informed that "cipher brains" are very rare. The story of inks, as used by spies in the War, is far from exhibiting the virtuosity of cipher brains in its refinements, but it lends itself to summary as being intelligible. The first stage—the stage of an ink that becomes visible only when heated. That may be reckoned as explained by the word "chemistry." In the second stage an ink is needed that will not reveal itself when a document under suspicion is submitted to the simple process of heating. That ink has to be conveyed to emissaries themselves perhaps under suspicion. Tablets in soap—the seeker soon on to that, and on to the impregnated socks—and, so nice was his taste in clothes, on to the black-neck-tie with small iridescent stains. At first, to find the ink was to analyse it in solution, thus to find a reagent for developing it, and so to turn the tables on the hider who did not necessarily know that his trick had been discovered. . . . Then the German hider learned to develop a message written "in clear water"—and the seeker countered with the discovery of a "general reagent"—iodine vapour that "settles into all the tiny crevices of the paper all the tissues that have been disturbed by the pen and water."

So far we have been considering problems that yielded to chemistry brains. Those associated with codes were matter for cipher brains. To cipher brains were submitted pages of numbers five figures long with a request for an interpretation—preferably by the following morning. In the end apparently the interpretation was always forthcoming. Just before March, 1918, the Germans launched a cipher composed of the letters ADFGVX repeated in varying order. Their first step towards employing it was to write two cipher letters for each letter in the original German. They then separated the pairs, mixed the components up according to a prearranged key and changed the key every day. This cipher

entment. Furthermore, only forestalls a good deal suggests, with considerable possibly from the variation involved in the "consciring" to denote "of Imaginism and sense of dynamic archaic-comparable butatis Platonic forms) the many, even among those e σωφροσι, find in his nation is due to novelty of n to an esoteric terminese considerations are of establish Mr. Fawcett's "radiantly reflective com of the abolition of unmade reality," or, in parti if somewhat baffling metaphysical Fall"—a pro-conservative "creation of e is present as duration alone, is transformed into itive" form of Begoming, es successional and space tions that must be left for To many conservatives in onceptions will no doubt ravagant; and it is not elians and materialists (if o may hold that they are outcome of a philosophy hat "there is no supreme e to think abstractly," and val an alle Theorie Lebens goldner Baum. r. Fawcett's Imaginism we d, faced with the operation will continue, to whatso to work within the frame of the future. His ideas hat more classical; counter-Lossy—who is, not unith some frequency; they led with the very necessary Platonic dissension between ophy; and they form the development through the ek thought and the concep of Hegel in the direction of over which, whether aptly agination or "consciring" ars, represents the transcen is Life and Pover and

STEFENS'S NEW POEMS

ems. BY JAMES STEFENS. nillan. 5s. net.) ty lies at the root of Anglo- consumed the later Yeats; and has caused the elfin James Stephens to turn k empty places of the mind, book, not to retrieve or find se, handle, and based on the of this book, called "Theme apparently follows upon a s. A meditation that induces ng "I am" is so strongly that it can even relish in struction of the universe:— he huge hard cliff d down to the sea: he sea was sucked e sun in a whiff: . . . blink! about! he sun out. . . . of the world's creatures one he point of elimination may olitary speculation, and lead, amazing verse about a cat, eater of a fly, &c.:— , forth from the grim grey dog ose, and close, and lets not ever, nor flies not far, nor long. o . . . and he, and all this is, murdered down—Eater and eater, urderer, goes murdering down. r-sight of the mind evokes, in istic pity, yet intellectual, and ne moving and intense. But nderlying life is no reason for no cause! comes e day: ght-weary, sun-sick— sleep at dark'ning evenfall. . . . bject of argument sometimes ould discover a philosophical oetry. Here, however, the n—of poetry and philosophy—

required for espionage to tear a secret from some poor devil, he could, on a moment's notice, find a woman to fit any requirement. Old or young, fat or thin, beautiful or homely, blonde or brunette—it made no difference to Captain Brown.

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One dreamed constantly that a bull dog was loose in her room. For hours she chased it under and over the bed, behind the chair, under the dresser, and finally, when she caught it, she found written on its side the word code. The other dreamed each night of walking along a lonely beach weighed down by an enormous sackful of pebbles. She struggled along for miles with this heavy burden on her back, searching for pebbles that matched those in her bag. When she found one that exactly matched she could take the duplicate from the bag and cast it into the sea. That was her only method of lightening the burden. . . .

Mr. Gerald Howe announces for the late autumn an English edition of the full-length biography of "Napoleon" by F. M. Kirchs-eisen. The book, which is illustrated with portraits and maps, has been translated by Henry St. Lawrence.

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D-2 Report

JAPAN (Political)

Subject: Foreign Relationships.  
"THE AMERICAN BLACK CHAMBER."Received  
G/2 W.D.  
Dec. 11

1931

A few days ago, the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires in Riga, Mr. Yujiro Sugishita, told me during a social conversation that he had read Yardley's book, "The American Black Chamber", and that he believed that the references made in that book to the decipherment of secret Japanese diplomatic cablegrams during the Washington Naval Conference of 1921 were true. Mr. Sugishita said that the Japanese had suspected this before and that they had also suspected the theft of some of their messages during that conference. He further stated that he did not understand why Yardley should have published this information.

\*

\*

\*

*George E. Arnevan*  
GEORGE E. ARNEVAN,  
Major, General Staff,  
Military Attache.

From: M.A., Riga, Latvia Report No. 7111 Date: November 10, 1931.



3-7 10039-299

No. 31635.

January 14, 1932.

Subject: Review of "The American Black Chamber".

To: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department,  
Washington, D.C.

1. With reference to Note 2, on page 3, G-2 Evaluation of Reports, dated December 7, 1931, there is forwarded herewith one copy of "The Times Literary Supplement" for October 8, 1931, reviewing the book "American Black Chamber", by Herbert O. Yardley.

2. The cost of this Supplement is 40-0-3d (approximately \$0.05), chargeable to Procurement Authority MIM 36 P 1-0222 A-062-2 (C., M.I.D., G.S.C., 1932-3).

Major, Infantry.

FOR AND IN THE ABSENCE OF:  
CORTLANDT PARKER,  
Lt. Col., F.A.S.,  
M.A., London.

encl. 1

C O P Y

PERSONAL HOLDING CORPORATION  
393 Seventh Avenue  
New York

Office of  
The President

April 26, 1932

Major Edgar S. Miller, General Staff,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Major Miller:

Before leaving rather hastily for the Reserve Officers National Convention in Pittsburgh, Colonel Stockton asked me if I would write to you to ascertain whether or not you could help him out as to the following.

In the preparation of his chapter on the various disarmament conferences, Colonel Stockton ran across a book written by Major Herbert O. Yardley, entitled, I believe, "The American Black Chamber."

In that book, the author states that he was engaged in decoding wires of foreign governments during the War and that he continued that work after the War up to and including the time of the Washington Disarmament Conference.

In the course of the book, he quotes some very interesting cables to and from Tokyo which he claims to have decoded. These cables show that the Japanese Government was, for example, attempting to limit the maneuver power of our Navy in the Pacific through securing an agreement that we would not fortify our bases at Manila and Guam which, as everyone knows, they have succeeded in doing. Other cablegrams seem to indicate a rather close understanding between Japan and Great Britain previous to the Conference.

What Colonel Stockton would like to know is whether or not you have any information as to the reliability of Major Yardley and whether or not it is probable that the cables printed in his book, purporting to be official Japanese Government cables, are, in fact, correct. Colonel Stockton asked me to say that he did not expect you to go to a great deal of trouble about this, but that he did think that you might be able to find out something about Major Yardley's reliability. I am sure that Colonel Stockton will be deeply grateful for your help in this matter as he has been for the work that you have already done to assist him.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ P. G. Moehringer,

P. G. Moehringer,  
Assistant to Colonel Stockton.

1.37.32

April 29, 1933.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Mr. Herbert O. Yardley.

With reference to the attached letter from Mr. F. G. Moshringer to Major Edgar S. Miller, G.S., dated April 26, 1933, it is recommended that Major Miller's reply contain in substance the following:

Mr. Yardley was not in the employ of the United States for some time prior to the publication of his book and did not submit the manuscript thereof to the War Department prior to publication.

"As the War Department does not, for obvious reasons, consent upon or review publications of private individuals, it is not in a position to pass upon either the reliability of the writer or the correctness of the statements in his book - "The American Black Chamber"."

Alfred S. Smith,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Assistant Chief of Staff.

✓  
4-29-32  
C. E. Hildner  
Hence suggest  
a reply to Maj. Miller,  
in substance as follows:  
"The War Department  
is not in a position  
to pass upon the  
reliability of Mr. Yardley  
or the correctness  
of the statements in  
his book, "The American  
Black Chamber"."

Alfred S. Smith



In reply AG 398.7 1-26-32  
refer to (Misc.)

COPY

WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON

IMMEDIATE ACTION

September 13, 1933.

SUBJECT: Mr. Herbert O. Yardley.

TO: The Commanding General,  
Fifth Corps Area,  
Fort Hayes,  
Columbus, Ohio.

1. You are hereby directed to designate an officer of the Regular Army to contact Mr. Herbert O. Yardley, the author of "The American Black Chamber", who according to latest advices may be reached at Worthington, Indiana. The officer so designated will verbally notify Mr. Yardley in the presence of two witnesses as follows:

"The Secretary of War is informed and believes that you have in your possession and under your control divers original documents that came into your possession during the time that you were an employee of the United States Government in connection with the Military Intelligence activities of the War Department, including those certain documents, reproductions of which are set forth in a book written by you entitled 'The American Black Chamber' between pages numbered 48 and 49, and 168 and 169.

The Secretary of War has also been advised that you have within your possession and under your control divers other original documents belonging to the United States; and further that you have divers copies of documents belonging to the United States made and obtained by you while you were connected with the United States Government in the capacity above mentioned.

It is, therefore, demanded of you that you deliver to The Adjutant General, United States Army, War Department, Washington, D.C., which officer is designated to receive such delivery, all such documents or copies of documents herein above described by reason of the relation of such documents and copies of documents to the National Defense, and that you refrain from making or causing to be made any copies thereof of any kind or nature whatsoever."

2. This demand must be made in the presence of two witnesses, preferably military, for the reason that no copy of this communication or demand will be furnished Mr. Yardley. The original copy of this letter will be returned to the War Department properly indorsed by both the officer making the demand and the witnesses as a proof of service when made.

By order of the Secretary of War:

(Signed) John E. Richardson.

Adjutant General.

1003  
September 13, 1932.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Subject: Telegram.

The Secretary of War directs that a telegram in War Department code be sent to the Commanding General, Fifth Corps Area, Fort Hayes, Ohio, as follows:

"Imperative War Department ascertain present whereabouts Herbert O. Yardley, author of book American Black Chamber. Last known address is Worthington, Indiana. Make discreet inquiry to locate and advise promptly."

Code telegram sent  
9-13-32.  
(MWW)  
hcm

Alfred T. Smith.  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Assistant Chief of Staff.

10 Received A. G. C SEP 13 1932

10039-259

Code Telegram  
Received at War Department September 13, 1932, 1:15 P.M. BPS  
W 12 Chicago, Ill., 10:16 A.M. Sept. 13/32.

The Adjutant General,  
Washington, D.C.

Reference your code telegram September 12th present address of Herbert O. Yardley is Worthington, Indiana.

Bolles.

1:45 PM  
Executive Order 9832

180



C O P Y

Bobbs-Merrill Publishing Company,  
Indianapolis,  
Indiana.

Gentlemen:

In connection with the publication of the book The American Black Chamber, of which Herbert O. Yardley is the author, a number of copies of official documents were included therein. Special reference is made to the documents between pages 48 and 49, and 168 and 169.

The Espionage Act (June 15, 1917, c. 30, Title 1, Sec. 1, 40 Stat. 217) provides that

" \* \* \* whoever lawfully or unlawfully having possession of, access to, control over, or being entrusted with any document \* \* \* \* \* relating to the National Defense wilfully communicates or transmits or attempts to communicate or transmit the same to any person not entitled to receive it, or lawfully retains the same and fails to deliver it on demand to the officer or employee of the United States entitled to receive it \* \* \* \* \* shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than two years or both."

Demand is now being made upon Herbert O. Yardley for all documents and copies thereof relating to the national defense that came into his possession or under his control incident to his official connection with the War Department.

It is suggested that should the publication of any other book of the nature of The American Black Chamber be contemplated by you that all documents or copies of documents to be included therein be submitted to the War Department for their advice as to whether such documents or copies of documents may properly be included, or whether they in fact relate to the National Defense.

Very truly yours,



WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, G-2  
WASHINGTON

10-29-29

61

C. Wilson

Please file  
with Yandley  
papers.

A. Smith  
G<sup>2</sup>

The original papers  
are kept in office  
of Secy, Genl. Staff.

The A.G. and  
ourselves have been  
furnished photostats  
so I am told by  
Secy G.S.

A. Smith  
G<sup>2</sup>

Sept 26-1932

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, G-2  
WASHINGTON

14 Sept

Called Cps 5<sup>th</sup> CA  
on long distance  
at 9 am + told  
him of coming  
to meet & give  
address of subject.

W. M.

C O P Y

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

September 14, 1932.

MANCHURIA SITUATION

Major Yardley's Manuscript

It is understood that the Bobbs Merrill Company declined to take this book on the score that it was in part a rehash of the previous book and in part too technical. Also, that the author wants to get a publisher who will use a greater variety of distribution methods than Bobbs Merrill use.

It is understood that the manuscript is at present in the hands of a "literary agent", Viola Irene Cooper, at 9 East Fifty-ninth Street, New York City; and that this agent will endeavor (or has endeavored) to place it with the MacMillan Company.

(Signed) W. R. C.

NOTE: Handed to me by Mr. Payne, Asst. Secretary of War, at 9:30 A.M., September 15, 1932, with directions that I at once take up the matter with Mr. Dodds, Assistant Attorney General. I visited Mr. Dodds who at 9:45 A.M., this date, called the Assistant Attorney at New York City and instructed him to interview Viola Irene Cooper and the MacMillan Company relative to the inadvisability of publishing this book in view of disclosures in "The American Black Chamber" of which Mr. Yardley is the author.

A. T. S.

10039-299

September 16, 1932.

MEMORANDUM for the Acting Secretary of War (Colonel Payne).

Subject: Herbert O. Yardley.

1. At 11:45 A.M., this date, Mr. Nugent Dodds, Assistant Attorney General, advised me by telephone that he has just received a report from his agencies in New York City to the effect that they have contacted the MacMillan Publishing Company and Miss Viola Irene Cooper, both of that city, relative to the report that Herbert O. Yardley contemplates the publication of a book similar to his first book, "The American Black Chamber".

2. According to the report, the MacMillan Publishing Company states that no manuscript from Yardley has as yet been submitted to them, but Miss Cooper advises that she expects to receive the manuscript from Yardley.

3. Mr. Dodds stated that his representatives in New York City are fully advised of the case at hand, and that both the publisher and Miss Cooper would get in touch with the Attorney General's representatives should Yardley's manuscript be received.

Alfred W. Smith,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Assistant Chief of Staff.

ham



COPY

10029 217

388.3 (1-26-32) Misc. B.

1st Ind.

9-9/22/32

BA-OES

HQ. FIFTH CORPS AREA, Fort Hayes, Ohio, September 15, 1932 - To Colonel Oliver P. Robinson, Infantry (DOL), Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

You are designated as the officer to carry out the instructions contained in basic letter from the War Department. You are authorized to utilize two of your own officers for military witnesses if necessary.

By command of Major General DRUM:

(Signed) Robert Whitfield  
Colonel, A.G.D.,  
Adjutant General.

388.3

2nd Ind.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE & TACTICS, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, Bloomington, Indiana. September 17, 1932. To: The Commanding General, Fifth Corps Area, Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio.

1. I have complied with the instructions contained in the basic communication and 1st Indorsement hereon. Captain Frank E. Barber, Infantry (DOL) and Captain Ernest C. Adkins, Infantry, (DOL) were present with me at Worthington, Indiana, the evening of September 16, 1932, and were witnesses to my reading to Mr. Herbert O. Yardley the statement contained in the basic communication commencing with the words "The Secretary of War" and ending with the words "or nature whatsoever". Captain Barber's and Captain Adkins' certificate is made a part of this indorsement following:

a. I certify that I was present at Worthington, Indiana, September 16, 1932, with Colonel O. P. Robinson, Infantry, (DOL) and witnessed the service on Mr. Herbert O. Yardley as heretofore indicated in this indorsement.

(Signed) Frank E. Barber  
Captain, Infantry, (DOL).

b. I certify that I was present at Worthington, Indiana, September 16, 1932, with Colonel O. P. Robinson, Infantry, (DOL) and witnessed the service on Mr. Herbert O. Yardley as heretofore indicated in this indorsement.

(Signed) E. C. Adkins.  
Captain, Infantry, (DOL).

2. For the information of the War Department I am quoting the exact wording of a statement Mr. Yardley asked me to transmit:

September 22, 1932. <sup>WAR DEPARTMENT</sup>

MEMORANDUM for the Acting Chief of Staff:

Subject: Herbert O. Yardley.

1. Immediately after my consultation with you this morning on the attached paper concerning the service upon Mr. Yardley of the demand, I called upon Mr. Rugoat Dodds, Assistant Attorney General, who originally drew up the form of the demand. I left with Mr. Dodds a true copy of the attached correspondence which he will file with his records.

2. Mr. Dodds stated that as the demand has been served, we should now await results and that he had no other action to propose at this time. Relative to Mr. Yardley's statement that he should like to talk the matter over with The Adjutant General, Mr. Dodds stated that such a move was for Yardley himself to make if he so wished.

3. In view of the foregoing, it is suggested that these papers be filed with The Adjutant General for ready reference.

Alfred T. Smith.  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Assistant Chief of Staff.

encls.  
has

COPY

2nd Ind. (Cont'd.)

10039-289

"1. Cosmopolitan Magazine, thru my Agent, has asked me to write a series of articles on espionage. I refused. These will be written by George Creel. 7

2. I am not interested in non-fiction. I have a contract for all I can write for non-fiction.

3. I have no documents that could injure the strength of the U. S. Government.

4. I cannot understand why the U. S. Government should attempt to embarrass me. I should like to talk the matter over with the Adjutant General."

(Signed) O. P. Robinson.  
Colonel, Infantry, (DOL)  
P. M. S. & T.

SECRET

AG 388.3 (8-26-32) Misc. B.

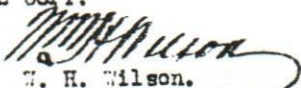
3rd Ind.

BA-OES

HQ. FIFTH CORPS AREA, Fort Hayes, Ohio, September 19, 1932 - To The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

R W

A TRUE COPY:

  
W. H. Wilson.  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Executive Officer, G-2.

186



COPY

FEB 17 1933

3861

MIL. INT. DIV.

10039-299

The following letter received this date by the Department of Justice  
from their U. S. Attorney in New York City:

"I have just learned from the MacMillan Company that they have received a book from Yardley, through another agent, entitled "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets". If for any reason the Department of Justice or the War Department is anxious to read this book, I think I could arrange it if it could be done promptly.

On the other hand, if you desire to read the book only in the event that MacMillan desires to publish it subject to the approval of the department, I can arrange that.

The important thing is that MacMillan cannot properly keep the book more than about ten days; and if the War Department desires to examine it, please let me know at your earliest convenience."

By telephonic  
from Mr. Parish,  
Dept of Justice  
10:00 AM  
July 17-1933

This message shown to Genl MacArthur  
Chief of Staff 12:30 P.M. July 17, 1933. Agreed  
that I give a copy to Mr Castle, Asst Secy of State,  
suggesting that he should ask Dept of Justice to secure  
the book (manuscript) and send to State Dept for  
examination, that Mr C. be advised that War Dept.  
would also read the book and State + War Depts  
to take joint action in requesting necessary action  
of the Dept of Justice. Copy delivered to Mr Castle about  
1:00 P.M. July 17/1933. H.T.G. 62



10037277  
MILITARY DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

March 22, 1933.

The following papers were turned over to the G-2 Record Section by Lt. John C. Connor, Finance Officer of G2, by direction of the Director Col. Alfred T. Smith, to be filed with other papers pertaining to Herbert O. Yardley.

Envelope #1: Cancelled checks covering N.Y. accounts and bank books.

Envelope #2: Bank statements. N.Y. accounts.

Envelope #3: Check books N.Y. accounts.

Envelope #4: Confidential vouchers from 1921 to Dec. 31-1925  
payments made from N.Y. account.

Envelope #5: Confidential vouchers from Jan. 1926 to Sept. 1931  
covering payments made from N.Y. account.

Note: These papers were filed without reading or recording in the Record Section.

September 23, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for the Chief, Public Relations Branch, G-2:

It is desired that you instruct your branch personnel to be on the watch for any press, book or other announcements, or other source, to the effect that Mr. Herbert O. Yardley contemplates writing or is publishing a book.

It is desired that all available book notices or news be scrutinized to this end, and that immediately upon determination of such notice, the A. C. of S., G-2, be informed.

Advise your personnel that there will be no discussion of this matter except within the branch.

For the A. C. of S., G-2:

W. H. Wilson.  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Executive Officer, G-2.

hcm

#579



## Herbert Yardley, Cryptographer, Dies; Broke Japan's Diplomatic Code in 1921

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7 (AP)—Herbert Osborne Yardley, known as the father of cryptography in the United States, died at his home today of a stroke. His age was 69.

Mr. Yardley was the first man to crack the Japanese diplomatic code during the critical days of the Washington Disarmament Conference of 1921.

Born in Worthington, Ind., Mr. Yardley started as a telegraph operator and became the foremost coding expert in the United States during World War I and the years that followed. After the war he was selected to head the "Black Chamber," the ultra-secret permanent deciphering bureau instituted jointly by the War and State Departments. He received the Distinguished Service Medal for his achievement in breaking the Japanese code.

He is survived by his widow, Edna; a son, Dr. Jack Yardley of Indianapolis; and a grandson.

**Wrote Controversial Book.**  
Mr. Yardley was more generally known as "Major" Yardley. He was a subject of considerable difference of opinion in Washington. After his Black Chamber had

been discontinued by President Herbert Hoover's Secretary of State, Henry L. Stimson, because Mr. Stimson did not think the United States should tap the secret messages of friendly nations, Mr. Yardley wrote a book.

"The American Black Chamber" was published by the Bobbs-Merrill Company in 1931. It was frowned upon by many Government officials as being too revealing. The New York Evening Post stated editorially that "We wish Theodore Roosevelt were alive to read to the author of this book a lecture on betraying the secrets of one's country."

Thereafter Mr. Yardley became a writer of fiction. "The Blind Countess" and "Red Son of Nippon" were among the books he turned out. He also took a flur in real estate development, went to China, set up a code department for Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and opened a restaurant in Washington.

He was doing the latter when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. It was the opinion of some political columnists that had he still been in the code bureau the attack might never have occurred.



## H. O. Yardley Dies; Expert In Codes

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (AP).—Herbert Osborne Yardley, sixty-nine, known as the father of cryptography in the United States, died of a stroke at his home yesterday.

Mr. Yardley created the Black Chamber in the Washington disarmament conference at Worthington, Ind. Mr. Yardley started as a telegraph operator and became the foremost coding expert in the United States during World War I. He was the first to be allowed. After the war he was selected to head the Black Chamber deciphering bureau instituted by the War and State Departments. He received the Distinguished Service Medal for his achievement in breaking the Japanese code.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Edna Yardley, a son, Dr. Jack Yardley, and a daughter.

**Work Abolished by Stimson**  
Mr. Yardley's services as a code breaker were discontinued in 1929, when the secretary of State Henry Stimson abolished such work abiding by the resolution of the trustful friendly nations. Mr. Yardley wrote an irate book, "The American Black Chamber," in an effort to have the bureau restored. It caused a furor in both Congress and foreign countries, but it did not achieve its purpose.

A second manuscript on the same theme was confiscated by the government and Mr. Yardley then made his skills available to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

His success with codes was attributed to his early training by professional poker players in the saloons of Worthington. He was a student of both the mathematics and the psychology of the game, and earlier this year he published his findings in a book entitled "The Education of a Poker Player."



Herbert O. Yardley



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TO Mr. Grant Manson, Dept of State

4 Aug 50

From Mr. Friedman, AFSA-14

Dear Grant:

In Yardley's American Black Chamber (1931) the demise of that unit was ascribed to the disapproval of the activities by Sec State Stimson. A couple of years later Yardley himself told me that he was in error in ascribing same to Stimson and that it was in reality President Hoover. Do you have any way of verifying Yardley's later version from the official records?

/s/ Friedman