

Sundsvik, Sweden, November 4, 1946.

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DIREKTIONEN

Dear Bill, I am now back from my trip to Holland, and I thought that I should write to you before you completed your report re your Swedish visit. I have had occasion to think over all we talked about during your stay at Sundsvik, and the result is that I feel that I should make a new improved "B-211". This would use two sets of relays, 5+5, controlled by 10 pinwheels, and also use means for reconnecting the circuits from the 25 keys to the 25 stopping magnets on the printer, at will. Of course I realize that for each hook-up there will be the limitation inherent to the 5x5 "square", but as the alphabets used will not be known to outsiders, then the above limitation should not be a serious handicap. One of the main constructional problems is the means of reconnection of the alphabet circuits, but I think that I have hit on a good solution. Another problem is that of a simple printing mechanism, and I think that I shall have that one licked also. So I hope that it will be possible to make a good multialphabet machine, printing on two tapes, of about the same dimensions as the present keyboard machine, made by us. If you are interested, then I will keep you posted on the eventual progress.

My trip to Holland was quite interesting, and after having been to the Hague, to Arnhem, and having passed Hamburg, Bremen & Osnabrück by train, I have now seen enough ruins and misery to last for a lifetime.

In Amsterdam I met Col. Verkuyll, and also General Koot. The latter played a very prominent role in the Dutch underground movement, as you may have heard. He now seems slated for an important job in the Dutch Indies, where he is going now.

An item of gossip: The Canadians took every single Siemens & Halske telecrypto found in Holland after the surrender. (The Danes managed to keep quite a large number of them).

Also (from another source): I understand that the English use an Enigma type keyboard machine, large and complicated.

Before I leave our special topic, I would like you to know that I have decided to act on your advice and limit my travels to - well to the US, first of all. I do hope that it will be possible for me to come to visit you next spring.

The day after you left, there came a letter from Elizabeth. I wrote a few lines to you on the envelope, and mailed it in another, to the US Embassy in Paris. I hope it reached you before you returned home. If not, then I hope that the loss did not cause you or Elizabeth any inconvenience, and then I also want to reiterate how much we enjoyed having you with us at Sundsvik, and that we trust that next time both Elizabeth and you can come to see us - without any official obligations to bother about.

I do hope that you drop me a few lines, when you have leisure, so that we shall know that you are back again in fine shape, all set to move to Dupont Circle (what will the address be?), and to dig away at the hidden treasures out on the banks on the Potomac! Annie and I do hope that all is well with the whole family, and unite in sending our love and best regards.

Sincerely

*Please excuse the*