

Riverbank Laboratories
Geneva, Ill.

Department of Ciphers

June 12, 1919.

Colonel George Fabyan,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Colonel Fabyan:

In accordance with your request, I have spent the day in the cipher laboratory and have gone into the principles underlying the attack on the A. T. & T. cipher machine.

As you are aware of the restrictions placed upon those who were in the Military Intelligence Service of the Government, it would not be consistent for me to go into details as to my knowledge of anything pertaining to this service. However, I feel at liberty to state that I think the mechanical principles by means of which solution can be accomplished are clearly understood by the members of the cipher department of Riverbank, and that I am of the opinion that the cipher is not invulnerable as now used, under normal conditions. Further, although I am entirely ignorant of the extent to which this system has been and is being employed, I believe that it is the duty of Riverbank to inform the War Department of its findings in respect to the vulnerability of the system, for it is impossible to say how important such knowledge may be to the Government.

Respectfully yours,

W. F. Friedman