

J M M

April 12, 1919.

Captain J. A. Powell,  
30 E. 111th Place,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Captain Powell,

Colonel Fabyan's claim that he has demonstrated the insecurity of the T. and T. cipher is laughably absurd. He has merely deciphered two messages written with the same running key—a task which ought not to take more than a few days at most. These were so far from being test messages that Mr. Gherardi, in sending them, said: "I have no doubt that you can decipher Nos. 2, 3, and perhaps 4. These, however, as you understand, are not the arrangement which we propose."

As to message No. 4--which apparently has not been solved--the decipherment of that is merely a matter of mechanical labor. It would probably take one man working alone a couple of days to do it but it is after all a problem of which one can say, "the solution is certainly attainable."

Until Colonel Fabyan has deciphered Message 1, 5, 6, or 7, he has not even made a beginning at demonstrating the insecurity of the T. and T. system.

Yours very truly,

John M. Manly  
Captain, U. S. A.

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