

16 February 1945.

Dear Vincent:

Your very nice note of 31 January was brought to me yesterday by Cheadle. I am looking forward very keenly to your visit and hope to see you early in March as you say. There will be lots about which to talk.

The two volumes which you forwarded are beautiful and we all appreciate having them very sincerely. I brought back with me from my visit a previous edition of similar material and now your new edition will bring the record up to date. Thank you very much for keeping us in mind.

Some wag in Op-20-G, in a frivolous moment, recently dashed off a report, a copy of which I enclose for your perusal and handing about to kindred spirits. Maybe it was intended as a satire on the writings of certain authors in his own shop but we have them, too, as do you--the Hut 6 lads, for example. All we lack to make this report perfectly clear is a set of blueprints, diagrams, and sketches! I hope you derive as much amusement out of this as I did.

Just as soon as you have definite news about your date of departure, I hope you will find means for letting me know. Looking forward to seeing you and with very cordial greetings to all, I am

Sincerely,

William F. Friedman,  
Director of Communications Research.

1 Inclosure:

Mr. E. R. Vincent,  
GC & CS,  
London, England.

*P.S. Col. O'Connor just phoned me of your early departure (9 March). Hurrah!*

TOP SECRET.

B.P.

31.1.45.

Dear Friedman,

I take this opportunity of expressing my gratification at receiving the kind invitation from General Bissell to visit Arlington. I am only sorry that pressure of some special work for which I am responsible has delayed my departure but I hope to start early in March. I eagerly look forward to meeting you again and seeing the S.S.A. organisation.

The two volumes now forwarded comprise records of German S.I.S. Hand-Ciphers solved at B.P. during this war. You will appreciate that this is not a theoretical treatise but is limited to actual methods of solution used on specific problems. This is an example of the kind of historical record I am trying to get written by the cryptanalists concerned.

Yours very sincerely,

*ETC. Vincent*

P.S. Mr. Small has been advised of despatch.

Mr. W.F. Friedman,  
S.S.A.

Arlington Hall Station  
26 April 1944

Dear Vincent:

Many thanks for your letter of 15 March. If you had not given me notice that you had sent the short specimen of your dictionary I doubt whether it would have turned up because it appears that Col. Crankshaw, in the press of matters much more important in connection with our conference, failed to turn over the carbon copy which was intended for me. Or if he did turn it over to somebody it never reached me. Upon receipt of your letter I questioned Major Stevens who after a certain amount of research dug up the original which had been sent to Cmdr. Travis.

I have been looking over this extract and have found it extremely interesting. Captain Wylie has certainly taken pains to go into the matter in detail and I can hardly wait for the complete dictionary to come. Of course I find deviations from our own terminology and I suppose the best that we could hope for would be to add to our list such terms as we can pick up from your list indicating your definition in your own language and putting our own definition along side it. For example, your definition of a cryptographer is quite different from ours, and it probably suits your own purposes better than does our own, but it would be useful for our list to show what you define as a cryptographer. Incidentally we call such a person a cryptanalyst. I am sure that Captain Wylie had at hand some of our textual material in which many of our terms are defined but he undoubtedly had good reasons for discarding our terminology and adhering to your own. Just as soon as we arrive at some preliminary list I will send you a copy. I note that you say of your list that the inclusion of a term does not mean that you sanction or like it. You will find that to be true of our own list. Later on when we get a definitive list I hope that a mechanism will be provided whereby a lethal dose of strychnine will automatically be deposited upon the tongue of anybody who uses an unauthorized term in place of one which is listed in the authorized catalog.

By this time Colonel Tiltman has told you about the nice conference we had. I am sure that much good will come from it. Despite a lot of hard work I enjoyed every minute of it.

It was good to make and renew acquaintance with the various people who participated; I hope that the ordeal of the trip and the work here was not too much for Cmdr. Travis. We all enjoyed having him with us because he is good fun and easy to do business with in an expeditious manner. The same, of course, is true of Colonel Tiltman.

Do you get to see much of Captain Fried? We think highly of him and I hope you will get to know him. You will soon have the opportunity of meeting another one of my associates, Major Rowlett. He, in fact, was the first man that I selected for an assistant when we began building up our establishment and is one of the ablest cryptanalysts in the field. I am going to ask him to put in a word to reenforce what I told Colonel Tiltman about my desire to have a visit from you. My suggestion was well received by Col. Tiltman and I am only sorry that I did not get a chance to present the matter myself to Cmdr. Travis. This I will do when an occasion presents itself in correspondence.

I wish especially to thank you for your autographed copy of your book on Rossetti. I take great pleasure in adding it to my collection.

With cordial greetings to you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Prof. E. R. Vincent  
Bletchley Park  
London

B.P.



15.3.44

Dear Friedman, Many thanks  
for your letter. I hope by now  
you will have seen the short  
specimen of our Dictionary taken  
over to you by our representatives  
You will appreciate that our  
first principle is to define the  
current usage in this Organisation  
as seen in official written reports.  
The inclusion of a term, doesn't  
mean that we sanction or like  
it. Should there be an attempt  
to regularise nomenclature, that



will come at a later stage.

I much appreciate  
the remarks at the end of your  
letter. I don't wish to suggest  
it myself, but if you cared to  
raise the matter in the next

quarter I should be very willing  
I'm sure I should have a  
lot that would be very useful.

Very Sincerely  
E. P. Vincent.

SPSIS-3

1 March 1944

Dear Vincent:

Thank you so much for your nice letter of 25 January and especially for the exceptionally good example of esotericism which you sent me. I am also glad to have the reference to Dante.

Our dictionary of cryptographic terms is coming along at a good rate and soon I hope to have something to send you. I shall look forward to receiving your equivalent list.

We are expecting visitors from your region soon and I am hoping to have some very pleasant reunions. When are we going to have the pleasure of a visit from you? I should think that that ought to be arrangeable.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Prof. E. R. Vincent  
Bletchley Park

Vin-  
cent

~~MOOSE SECRET~~B. P.  
25.1.44.# 3134  
(Amey?)

Dear Friedman,

Many thanks for your letter which I was very happy to receive. The Dictionary of Cryptographic Terms is progressing but at a much slower rate than I should wish owing to the simple fact that our expert lexicographer can be spared for this work only when his operational cryptographic duties allow. It is only another example of our 'man-power' problem. Nevertheless he has got to the term 'Serial Number' and with only one high frequency letter left I hope to be able to send you a first draft before very long so that you can see the lines on which we are working. Your previous enquiry, by the way, was passed through Captain Seaman who tells me he reported back to Arlington Hall what I then told him.

I enclose a beautiful example of esotericism for you to add to your collection. It occurs to me that one of the earliest examples of this kind of thing in European Literature is to be found in Dante's Vita Nuova.

Yours very sincerely,

E. R. Vincent

*E. R. Vincent*

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The 3 1944