

File CP-206

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNALS OFFICER
WASHINGTON

August 3, 1932

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Charles A. Howe, Patents Division, Signal Corps,
Room 1054, Munitions Building.

1. With reference to the first action on the cipher machine patent application, the following comments are made:

- a. The numeral "1" should be added to the drawing.
- b. It is believed that the validity of the conflicts with Howland can be combatted as regards Claims 1, 2, 3, and 33. In Howland the electrical condition representing a character is composed of the permutation of signalling units and these units are put through segments of a commutative device. In our application the electrical condition representing a character consists simply in the setting up of a single circuit, part of which traverses a conductor in a cipher wheel. This cipher wheel is not of the nature of a commutator built up of segments as in Howland. Moreover, the series circuit referred to in our application has nothing to do with the electrical condition representing the message character, but is simply a part of the mechanism for controlling the displacements of the cipher wheel. There is nothing similar to this in Howland.
- c. Claim 18 appears to be met by Wheeler, as cited, and can be withdrawn.
- d. Claim 24 may be withdrawn as unimportant.
- e. With reference to Claims 40 to 50, in accordance with your suggestion, I believe it advisable to challenge the rejection for part of these claims at least. Method claims may be found in many patents applicable to cryptographic devices and I refer specifically to such as those of Vernam and Parker, both in connection with the printing telegraph cipher system of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

William F. Friedman.