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Arlington Hall Station
Arlington, Virginia
18 August 1943

Dear John:

I was very pleased to receive your letter of July 25. By this time I am sure that you have returned from your leave and I hope that the much needed rest has improved your health. It seems to me that all of us would profit by taking advantage of leave to get away from the grind. I have not yet been able to do so but expect to within a few days.

I talked briefly with Joe Wenger on the phone on Sunday, he having gotten back the night before. We made a tentative engagement to get together and last night when I phoned his home to see if he was available for a chat, I found that he was out at the Naval hospital. I suspect that he will have to take a rest for several weeks. As a matter of fact I had been wondering how long he would be able to stand up under the strain because for a number of months now I have watched him go down noticeably. He told me on Sunday that he had been led a merry chase by Admiral Redman but then Redman has the physique to take a good deal of punishment.

I turned in a very brief preliminary report several weeks ago and a couple of days ago I turned in a detailed report on the E operations. It comes to well over 100 pages of single-spaced typewriting. A copy is being sent Travis officially. I hope that you will get a chance to see it and that it does not contain too many errors. I plan to submit several additional reports on other subjects just as fast as I can get them out but you may well understand that they have to be written under pressure and in such time as I can steal from other work which has to be carried on currently.

We thought that we had nearly reached our full and authorized strength a few weeks ago but now we find that we are going to have to take on a good many more people. Our recruiting program, which was temporarily suspended a couple of weeks ago, is about to be reactivated, and I hope we may be able to find the necessary number among the young women. Our great problem is not so much the question of accommodation as of transportation but with sufficient pressure I think we can manage.

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I was very much interested in your notes regarding the Japanese problem especially in the question of solution when the basic book is unknown and the indicating system impregnable. We are soon going to undertake some studies of a theoretical nature using newly developed RAM devices of the nature of those you saw at the Navy. I think the matter will resolve itself into one of high speed location of distributed coincidences. We shall, of course, keep in close touch with you.

Our luck on the current Japanese codes seems to be holding up. I do not want to pat myself on the back, but three years ago I contended that the Japanese simply would not be able to keep up with their fancy indicator system and that the system as a whole must break down sooner or later. No doubt you have already been apprized of the recent discoveries in the case of 7890. I do not think that the Japanese will be able to tighten up; on the contrary, I think it will get progressively easier. I am really hoping that we will be able to do in the case of the operations what has been done at BP on E operations, in respect to speed and practical results.

I shall be extremely interested in the results of your experiment with 3366 on new lines. Please let me hear from you the minute you have anything to report.

Colonel Corderman, as you know, is planning to pay you a visit next month. He has read my E report most attentively and says he is going to go over it two or three times so that he has a complete picture seen through my eyes. I hope that I will have several other reports out before he leaves. I think that he will be able to get more out of his visit that way.

I had quite a talk with Admiral Redman a few days ago after he returned. He was very enthusiastic about the show at BP and at all the other places he visited. Wenger also, in my brief telephone talk with him, expressed his great admiration for the scope and broad concept of things that he saw there. I am most anxious to talk over details with him.

You will recall that we discussed briefly the desirability of your paying us another visit this autumn. I am indeed convinced that these exchange visits are extremely beneficial and I would like to urge that you do come shortly after Colonel Corderman returns. I think you know without my saying so how warm a welcome you would receive.

I see O'Connor very occasionally. He has not yet been able to get thoroughly settled in his new house, having had

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to move out of one within a few weeks after he got into it. We have met Mrs. O'Connor and like her very much.

In his spare time Stevens has prepared an interesting and informal discussion of methods of attacking the Japanese military codes and I am looking forward to reading it. No doubt you will receive a copy from him.

My best greetings to Mrs. Tiltman and to your daughter. Tell Mrs. Tiltman that we are glad that she liked the trinket. With cordial greetings to everybody, I am

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman
Director of Communications
Research

Colonel J. H. Tiltman,
GC & CS

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