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10158

22 January 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONELS CLARKE AND CORDERMAN

COPY

Subject: Early "E" History

1. The following may be well known to Mr. Friedman and others, and is submitted only as rough notes of possible interest, based on informal discussion with Cmdr. Denniston.

2. Prior to 1939 the G.C. & C.S. had worked on the German "E" traffic, and had developed some theories as to solution methods, but had achieved no success. I gather that Knox was responsible for most of what had been accomplished up to that time.

3. Early in 1939, about February, Denniston and Knox were asked by the French to come to Paris to discuss "E" with the Poles. They went, and met the Poles, but on that occasion the Poles told them little that G.C. & C.S. did not already know. Subsequent events showed that the Poles were "holding out" on the British and French.

4. In July 1939 Denniston and Knox were invited to Warsaw by the Poles to discuss "E". It then was disclosed that the Poles had been successfully dealing with a large amount of "E". Denniston's impression is that the Poles' continuity ran well back into the early twenties. They had bombs. Knox was outraged that the Poles had been reticent in February; not realizing that the Poles understood English, he made very derogatory remarks while riding in a cab with Denniston and one of the Poles, to Denniston's great embarrassment. Denniston and Knox took back notes and ideas to England, set about building bombs, etc. Before G.C. & C.S. got well into the "E" traffic, war broke out.

5. All "E" Keys (possibly wheels too) were changed on the outbreak of war, and none of the three powers by then "in the picture" (England, Poland and France) could break the traffic during the remainder of 1939. Knox and others worked away at it, and the Poles and French worked in Paris. At a meeting in Paris early in 1940, results were interchanged in face-to-face discussion and continuity was reestablished. Most

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of the "E" was handled successfully by the British throughout the Battles of Norway and France. The Paris party, however, was not so successful, and communications difficulties, prevented the French from getting full value out of Britain's technical success.

6. Several of the Poles versed in "E" work are believed to be in German hands, but apparently have not been "broken". At least two of the French -- including the leading French expert, Bertrand -- are still in occupied France.

TELFORD TAYLOR
Lt. Col., GSC

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ROUTING AND WORK SHEET

B-751

(PAR. 40.62 O.R.)

SUBJECT Foreign Cryptanalysts

Number each action	To—	Memorandum	Name, Division or Branch, and Date
1	OIC SPSIB III	<p>The following comments are offered with regard to the attached study re foreign cryptanalysts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The study is incomplete, at least to the extent of (a) those references to Japanese and Finnish work on U. S. systems, contained in the "C-" series of translations of Japanese Military Attache messages, and (b) any mention of those transmissions in Japanese Military Attache messages of the complete texts of the various Russian code books mentioned in some of the references cited. 2. The references cited for various quotations would be more useful if system trigraph were added, in each case. 3. Such a study, kept up to date, with complete cross-references for individual names, etc., might be very useful for our own units concerned with the various problems under enemy scrutiny. 4. All such information, insofar as it deals with enemy activity on U. S. systems, should be coordinated with C Branch. 5. Study of the activities of the various individuals known to be engaged in cryptanalytic activity, such as the Japanese HAYASHI, HIROSE, SAKURAI, should perhaps be coordinated with information on these individuals from other intelligence agencies. 	<p><i>Snyder</i> Samuel S. Snyder CIC SPSIB III f 1 February 1944</p> <p><i>Rowlett</i> FRANK B. ROWLETT MAJOR, SPSIB - III 5 Feb. 44</p>
2	E O B	<i>downloaded</i>	

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