

~~SECRET~~MEMORANDUM IN RE CODING MACHINES

On Sunday night, November 14, 1943, a high ranking Swedish Defense Staff officer (a colonel), who among his duties has certain supervisory functions over the section which has been set up for the purpose of breaking cipher cables emanating from Foreign Legations, in Stockholm, made, while under the influence of liquor, statements to the effect that the Swedes are successful in most cases of breaking foreign cable cipher messages. He added that their greatest difficulty was encountered with German ciphers in that the Germans change their ciphers more frequently than do others and further that evidently the Germans have pre-arranged code names for many items so that even when a German cipher is broken it frequently does not yield much information.

During the conversation the Swede discussed the use of cipher machines, and referred to the increasing international use of Swedish cipher machines and claimed that America was making increasing purchases of Hagelin cipher machines from Sweden. In this connection the Swede stated that Hagelin was in the United States and apparently had been very successful in making sales there. During the discussion the Swede claimed that the Bureau Section referred to had devised ways and means of breaking ciphers made up through the Hagelin machines.

The Chief of the Section which handles the matter of working on foreign cipher messages is:

Commander Captain Torgill Thoren (Navy).

His principal assistants are:

Captain Rossby (Army)
Captain Ternberg (Army).

As a parenthetical note it might be added that the brother of the above Commander Captain Thoren is the Swedish Naval Attache in Helsinki.

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