

Les Rowlett, Frank B.

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
CHICAGO, ILL. NEWS		
E. 196,980		

MAR 7 1966

Staying Ahead in the Code

With high ceremony, the government gave an award the other day to Frank Byron Rowlett, an expert cryptographer, but the citation was, well, cryptic. It failed to tell what he had done.

Since cryptography is the science of codes and ciphers, the secrecy is understandable, but intriguing. Did he break a code or invent a new one? Whatever it was, it was hailed as a contribution to the security of the nation so important that the head of the CIA and the President of the United States were on hand to honor him.

If we may judge from the current rash of spy stories in print and on TV, the span of activity in Rowlett's specialty is broad enough these days to encompass anything from exploding ink to a message paper with strawberry flavoring — in case the messenger has to eat his words. And we can't help wondering if the citation was in plain English or in a code for Rowlett to break for exercise.

In any case, we hasten to add our congratulations for his feat, whatever it was, and salute him in the classic code of the newspaper shop. So SHRDLU ETOAIN, Mr. Rowlett, and if you ever decipher that, let us know.