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LIFE'S REPORTS

MARSHALL-DEWEY LETTERS

General told candidate we had broken Jap code

During the 1944 election campaign General George C. Marshall wrote two letters to Republican Candidate Thomas E. Dewey, telling him that Army cryptographers had broken the Japanese "ultra" code. This fact was first revealed in a story by LIFE Editor John Chamberlain which appeared in LIFE, Sept. 24. Marshall's purpose, Chamberlain wrote, was to forestall Dewey's revelation of that fact in a possible attack on the Roosevelt administration's Japanese policy before Pearl Harbor. The actual text of the letters remained secret until last week, when General Marshall appeared before the Congressional committee investigating Pearl Harbor and made the letters public. They appear below.

When he had finished reading the first two paragraphs of the first letter, Governor Dewey stopped because, as the Chamberlain article reported, "the letter might possibly contain material which had already come to him from other sources, and that anyway, a candidate for President was in no position to make blind promises." General Marshall sent the letter back again with an introduction which relieved the governor of binding conditions. This time Dewey read the letter and after much thought and discussion decided not to make use during the campaign of any information he previously had.

First Letter

TOP SECRET
(FOR MR. DEWEY'S EYES ONLY)

25 September, 1944

My Dear Governor:

I am writing you without the knowledge of any other person except Admiral King (who concurs) because we are approaching a grave dilemma in the political reactions of Congress regarding Pearl Harbor.

What I have to tell you below is of such a highly secret nature that I feel compelled to ask you either to accept it on the basis of your not communicating its contents to any other person and returning this letter or not reading any further and returning the letter to the bearer.

I should have preferred to talk to you in person but I could not devise a method that would not be subject to press and radio reactions as to why the Chief of Staff of the Army would be seeking an interview with you at this particular moment. Therefore, I have turned to the method of this letter, to be delivered by hand to you by Colonel Carter Clarke who has charge of the most secret documents of the War and Navy Departments.

In brief, the military dilemma resulting from Congressional political battles of the political campaign is this:

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

GENERAL MARSHALL

GOVERNOR DEWEY

"Then he gave and...
kissed the hand to which
he gave the diamond" *

—"Lancelot and Elaine," Tennyson

* A diamond for Christmas
Yes...if you can! But here's
gift for every lovely!



WHEN you give Pacquins... say Merry gift that's named. For more women use other hand cream in the world! Wrap Pacquins Hand Cream as an extra little special. The smaller jars make plus Christmas stocking. And for last-minute gifts - Pac yourself Pacquins too... for lovely younger looks.

Pacquins
Hand Cream

100% Pure
Glycerin
Scented
with
Essence of
Rose

AT ANY FINE DEPARTMENT STORE

HS/HC-895

LIFE'S REPORTS CONTINUED

The most vital evidence in the Pearl Harbor matter consists of the intercepts of the Japanese diplomatic communications. Over a period of years our cryptograph people analyzed the character of the machine the Japanese are using for encoding their diplomatic messages. Based on this, a corresponding machine was built by us which deciphered their messages.

Therefore, we possessed a wealth of information regarding their moves in the Pacific which in turn was furnished the State Department—rather than, as is popularly supposed, the State Department providing us with the information—but which unfortunately made no reference whatever to intentions toward Hawaii until the last message before Dec. 7, which did not reach our hands until the following day, Dec. 8.

Now the point to the present dilemma is that we have gone ahead with this business of deciphering their codes until we possess other codes, German as well as Japanese, but our main basis of information regarding Hitler's intentions in Europe is obtained from Baron Oshima's messages from Berlin reporting his interviews with Hitler and other officials to the Japanese Government. These are still in the codes involved in the Pearl Harbor events.

To explain further the critical nature of this set-up which would be wiped out almost in an instant if the least suspicion were aroused regarding it, the Battle of the Coral Sea was based on deciphered messages and therefore our few ships were in the right place at the right time. Further, we were able to concentrate on our limited forces to meet their advances on Midway when otherwise we almost certainly would have been some 3,000 miles out of place.

We had full information of the strength of their forces in that advance and also of the smaller force directed against the Aleutians which finally landed troops on Attu and Kiska.

Operations in the Pacific are largely guided by the information we obtain of Japanese deployments. We know their strength in various garrisons, the rations and other stores continuing available to them, and what is of vast importance, we check their fleet movements and the movements of their convoys.

The heavy losses reported from time to time which they sustain by reason of our submarine action largely results from the fact that we know the sailing dates and the routes of their convoys and can notify our submarines to lie in wait at the proper point.

The current raids by Admiral Halsey's carrier forces on Japanese shipping in Manila Bay and elsewhere were largely based in timing on the known movements of Japanese convoys, two of which were caught, as anticipated, in his destructive attacks.

You will understand from the foregoing the utter tragic consequences if the present political debates regarding Pearl Harbor disclose to the enemy, German or Jap, any suspicion of the vital sources of information we now possess.

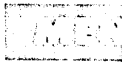
The Roberts' report on Pearl Harbor had to have withdrawn from it all reference to this highly secret matter, therefore in portions it necessarily appeared incomplete. The same reason which dictated that course is even more important today because our sources have been greatly elaborated.

As a further example of the delicacy of the situation, some of Donovan's people (the OSS), without telling us, instituted a secret search of the Japanese Embassy offices in Portugal. As a result the entire military attaché Japanese code all over the world was changed, and though this occurred over a year ago, we have not yet been able to break the new code and have thus lost this invaluable source of information, particularly regarding the European situation.

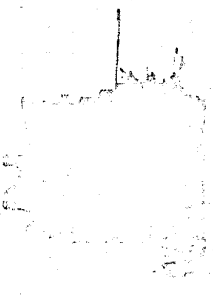
A recent speech in Congress by Representative Harness would clearly suggest to the Japanese that we have been reading their codes, though Mr. Harness and the American public would probably not draw any such conclusion.

The conduct of General Eisenhower's campaign and of all operations in the Pacific are closely related in conception and timing to the information we secretly obtain through these intercepted codes. They contribute greatly to the victory and tremendously to the savings of American lives, both in the conduct of current operations and in looking toward the early termination of the war.

I am presenting this matter to you, for your secret information, in the hope that you will see your way clear to avoid the tragic results with which we are now threatened in the present political campaign. I might add that the recent action of Congress in requiring Army and Navy investigations for action before certain dates has compelled me to bring back the corps commander, General Gerow, whose troops are fighting at Trier, to testify here while the Germans are counterattacking his forces there. This, however, is a very minor matter compared to the loss of our code information.



You can put a cam
clouds and waves. A
magnificent story, give
actors, and produce an
is exactly what the me
It is one thing to say
It is another thing to
your heart. Destiny etc
White's novel "They W



EAS.

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Don't waste
your
time
...
DON'T WASTE
YOUR
TIME
...
DON'T WASTE
YOUR
TIME
...

LIFE'S REPORTS CONTINUED

Please return this letter by bearer. I will hold it in my secret file subject to your reference should you so desire.

Faithfully yours,
G. C. MARSHALL

Second Letter

TOP SECRET

(FOR MR. DEWEY'S EYES ONLY)

27 September, 1944

My Dear Governor:

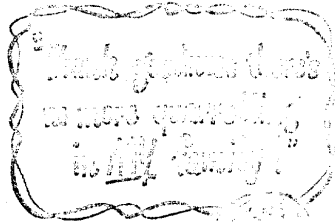
Colonel Clarke, my messenger to you of yesterday, Sept. 26, has reported the result of his delivery of my letter dated Sept. 25. As I understand him you (A) were unwilling to commit yourself to any agreement regarding "not communicating its contents to any other person" in view of the fact that you felt you already knew certain of the things probably referred to in the letter, as suggested to you by seeing the word "cryptograph," and (B) you could not feel that such a letter as this to a Presidential candidate could have been addressed to you by an officer in my position without the knowledge of the President.

As to (A) above I am quite willing to have you read what comes hereafter with the understanding that you are bound not to communicate to any other person any portions on which you do not now have or later receive factual knowledge from some other source than myself. As to (B) above you have my word that neither the Secretary of War nor the President has any intimation whatsoever that such a letter has been addressed to you or that the preparation or sending of such a communication was being considered.

I assure you that the only persons who saw or know of the existence of either this letter or my letter to you dated Sept. 25 are Admiral King, seven key officers responsible for security of military communications, and my secretary who typed these letters.

I am trying my best to make plain to you that this letter is being addressed to you solely on my initiative, Admiral King having been consulted only after the letter was drafted, and I am persisting in the matter because the military hazards involved are so serious that I feel some action is necessary to protect the interests of our armed forces.

(The second letter then repeated substantially the text of the first letter except for the first two paragraphs.)



The twins and I have discovered Wunderhose, that's why! No more snitching stockings from my drawer, no more borrowing from each other.

You see, smooth-finish Wunderhose, just like mine, come in styles especially shaped to fit their slim teenage legs. So now the girls prefer their own stockings to mine—and the perfect fit gives them longer wear, too.

Of course, we all wear Wunderhose anklets... They come in my size as well as the youngsters', and in the prettiest shades. As a matter of fact the name "Wunderhose" has come to mean complete stocking satisfaction for all the feminine members of my breed.



ALSO EVERWEAR AND ARROWHEAD HOSIERY
RICHMOND HOSIERY MILLS, ROSSVILLE, GA.



GENUINE
Orange Blossom

The Beauty, craftsmanship and assured fineness of these rings comes of Traub's years of acknowledged leadership in the crafting of fine rings for those who know and want the best.

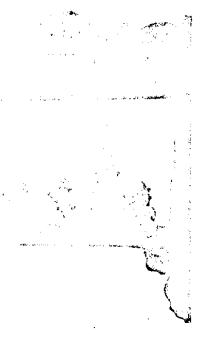
Orange Blossom prices begin at \$10.00 for Wedding Rings, \$35.00 for Engagement Rings, including tax. Write for illustrated folder.



REC
FOR C
PLY

for
light-hearted
decorations

...table
...with
...families and
...Tree
...and...



...all
...gala
...parties

The holiday spirit
shines brightly in a
Cascade Candle,
and cherubic Angel
Candles.

See Christmas
...CANDLES

...bright ideas in Christ-
...in gift boxes. Choose
...holiday arrangements.
...made by skilled crafts-
...your Christmas fun!



TAVERN HOME PRODUCTS