

Ryerson University
Department of History

HST 540: *Espionage - A 20th Century History*

Dr. Arne Kislenko

Code Breaking Exercise #2

Attached you will find a coded message. Your mission, should you decided to accept it, is to crack the code and message. The message is fictitious, but it is based on similar messages used during World War II. By the standards of code-breakers during the war, this exercise would be moderately easy, so keep in mind that most messages were much more complicated and difficult to crack - especially considering that most were in languages foreign to the code-breaker. In this exercise, the message is in English.

Clues

- Take a close look at the pattern of the message. Note any patterns and look for their repetition.
- Focus on devising a system that may be applicable. Setting up a grid to use for your practise is advisable.
- All messages name senders and receivers. Most messages use abbreviations for some words. Most messages do not many use conjunctions and articles. Punctuation is never used.
- Note any problems or anomalies you discover. No system is infallible.

Your Mission

- 1) Break the code and transcribe the message.
- 2) Read and analyse the message.
- 3) Note any difficulties or anomalies in the code or message, and try to explain why they might exist in the message.
- 4) Report on a potential meaning for the message, and advise on possible strategy.

Your Reward

- 1) Satisfaction.
- 2) Greater appreciation for the work of code-breakers.

TOP SECRET - Not for distribution

Message received 23:20 hours, 03 June 1944, GS/CS post 112, Dover:
Relay from Alliance operative *Le Castor*, Dunkirk.
Unknown pattern message sent by courier *SS* Headquarters Calais - destination
unknown. De-code Priority 1 - most urgent - directive Whitehall.

HINT: Other intelligence reports that the commander of SS Headquarters
Calais is SS *Oberfuhrer* (Major General) Switzer.

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