



(Reading time: 17 minutes 5 seconds.)

IN 1917 I created the American Black Chamber, the official cipher bureau of the United States Government, which solved the secret code and cipher telegrams of foreign governments. I directed its secret activities until 1929, when a new Secretary of State, being informed of our skill, disapproved of our practices. This decision closed the doors of my secret bureau.

During this period, from 1917 to 1929, the Black Chamber deciphered over 45,000 diplomatic code and cipher telegrams of foreign governments, and solved the code books of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, France, Germany, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Russia, San Salvador, Santo Domingo, Soviet Union, and Spain.

And now that the United States is no longer engaged in this sort of espionage, I am often asked whether such countries as England continued after the war to supervise the diplomatic messages of friendly nations. We are all familiar with the fame of the British naval cipher bureau, obtained during the war under the direction of Admiral Hall. But did this bureau continue its secret activities after the war?

On December 16, 1920, this question was asked indirectly of Newcomb Carlton, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, who was testifying before the Senate committee on cable landing licenses.

"As I recall it," Mr. Carlton said, "after a message has been in our office in London for, I think, ten days, to give it a good start so there cannot be any question about it, that message in its original form—ninety per cent of them are in code—is taken to, I think, the British Naval Intelligence Bureau. They hold them not more than a few hours, three or four or five, and then return them. They do not hold them long enough for anything like deciphering."

The chairman might have pointed out to Mr. Carlton that, though it may take several hours or perhaps weeks or months to decipher a document, only a few seconds are required to make a photostatic copy. Once the telegrams are photostated, the cryptographers can take their time solving them.

Mr. Carlton went on to say that he had instructed his vice president in London not to deliver the messages, but was assured by the British Government that the messages would not be deciphered but that they wanted to know who was cabling.

On January 10, 1921, Mr. Carlton was again questioned by the same committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: "Mr. Carlton, as I recall it, when you were on the stand here a couple of weeks ago or so, you

Double AME

*A Glimpse of the
that Goes On Behind*

By **HERBERT O.**

made the statement that all commercial messages were turned over to the Navy Department of Great Britain, but you did not know whether that included government messages or not. I would like to know whether that does include government messages or not."

Mr. Carlton asked to be excused from answering. The chairman did not insist, but after taking other testimony he requested an answer.

MR. CARLTON: "I must first describe what takes place. It appears that the British Government was desirous of supervising in and out cable messages to certain European countries in the interest of British peace and quiet. In order to avoid an appearance of discriminating against other European countries, they decided to take charge, physical charge, of all in and out cable messages from every country, and they therefore adopted the plan of waiting ten days, that is, to give ten days between the handling of messages and the time that the government called at the cable offices for the messages. The messages were then placed in large bags, sealed, I believe, and put in wagons. Those wagons were drawn away under custody of the Admiralty, and lodged overnight in a storehouse and returned to the cable office next morning. . . .

"We have further investigated and are satisfied that during that period not a single message, commercial, diplomatic, or otherwise, has been actually handled by the Naval Intelligence Bureau, and the contents are unknown to the British Government because of that fact."

Just how one would go about investigating what happened to the telegrams during the night Mr. Carlton does not say. Having directed the secret activities of the American Black Chamber over a period of twelve years, I ask to be pardoned if I am skeptical. During the war I was in London several weeks, studying cryptography under the British and was in a good position to know



Crossing RICA

International Intrigue
Uncle Sam's Back

YARDLEY

something of the espionage methods of the Admiralty cipher bureau.

Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, testifying before the same committee, said:

"Since censorship ceased the British Government have required us to turn over all messages ten days after they have been sent or received. This is a right which they claim under the landing licenses they issue to all cable companies."

Mr. Mackay did not say that the British made no attempt to decipher the messages.

In any case, members of our diplomatic corps tell a story that hardly fits into Mr. Cariton's picture. They take it as an accepted fact that Great Britain attempts to decipher our messages—take it good-naturedly, as most diplomats do. Not long ago a former secretary to the American Embassy in London thought he had a huge joke on the British Admiralty cipher bureau when he told me the following tale.

"As you know," he said, "code words are often garbled in transmission and cannot be deciphered. One day Washington cabled us in London, asking that we confirm and repeat several code words in a message that had been dispatched a few hours earlier. The original code message had been sent to the British authorities for transmission, and through an inadvertence we had not retained a copy. So we telephoned them to return the original at once. Evidently a new clerk answered the telephone, for he replied, 'That message isn't here. It's over at the Admiralty.'"

The secretary leaned back in his chair and laughed long and loud at this. I thought it amusing myself. However, someone must have overheard the new clerk, for shortly thereafter he telephoned the embassy to say that he was mistaken about the message being at the Admiralty.

They had found the message and were returning it to the embassy. "Of course," concluded the secretary, "what actually happened is that they realized the clerk had tipped their hands, and sent an urgent call to the Admiralty to rush the telegram back to us."

But whether Mr. Cariton was overoptimistic or not, the American Black Chamber was not so fortunate as to have wagonloads of code and cipher messages delivered to it under naval escort. Our



Marshall and Claudette Colbert in a scene from *Acts of a Secretary*.

Said

becomes a social secretary. I can't much for the story, except that weak as a gangster's alibi. The Claudette Colbert is utterly here.

do know that—

old Lloyd is at work on a new movie studio? built about a boob who breaks

and three-star pictures last six months

★—Street Scene, Bad Girl, The Lieutenant, Skippy, The Fron

—The Spider, Waterloo Bridge, Last Flight, Alexander Hamilton, as You Feel, The Common Law, Sporting Blood, Laughing Sinners, Forbidden Adventure, The Man in the Moon, Night Nurse, Smart Money, and Ten, Chances, Le Million, Long Legs, Always Goodbye, A Fool, Indiscreet, Svengali, The Enemy, A Connecticut Yankee, Millionaire, Dirigible, Tabu, Backstage Doors, Charlie Chan Carries Strangers, May Kiss, Dishonored, Last Parade, Pagliacci.

cable lines are not controlled by the government, and there were therefore periods when it was difficult to obtain copies of the telegrams of foreign governments. Often it was necessary to resort to dangerous espionage.

In 1927, however, things were running smoothly, when suddenly my informant in Washington stopped sending me copies of Japanese code messages, except one now and then. This was during the crisis in China, when Washington was especially concerned about the intentions of Japan and England. Back in 1919 I had broken the Japanese diplomatic codes. From 1919 to 1927 we had deciphered something like 10,000 Japanese diplomatic messages and broken close to thirty different Japanese codes—this, of course, in addition to our other work. Japan was one of the few governments that Washington was interested in at all times. For this reason, aside from the Chinese crisis, I wrote my informant after a couple of weeks, asking why he was sending us only a few Japanese messages. He replied that only a few were being filed with the cable companies in Washington. I doubted this and immediately took the midnight to Washington, where I questioned him closely.

"I THINK the Japanese Embassy is sending its messages in some other manner," he told me. "But in order not to arouse suspicion they file a telegram now and then with the cable companies here."

"But what of the telegrams they receive from Tokyo?" I asked.

"I have sent you everything, both received and sent cables," he assured me.

"But there haven't been a dozen telegrams in the last three weeks," I protested. "During the crisis in China there should be a large file."

"I can't help that," he said. "They are not being filed here in the name of the Japanese Embassy."

I was bewildered at this information, but a few days later I received a communication from my government that seemed to explain the situation. Japan evidently had adopted a most amazing and illegal method of sending diplomatic dispatches to and from Tokyo and Washington.

The letter contained several code telegrams and sheets of data, and stated that these had been turned over to the War Department by the coast guard which was intercepting rumrunner wireless messages on the Pacific coast.

The messages had been intercepted on a wave length of about fifty-five meters between 5 and 6 A. M. Pacific time. They were evidently transmitted on a fixed schedule, for the sending operator gave no call or signature. But suddenly, without warning, there flashed "RK3 to

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

[DOUBLE-CROSSING AMERICA]
Continued from page thirty-nine

RP7." Then followed rapidly several messages with no address or signature. At the end there was silence for a few seconds, then the other station signaled "RP7 to RK3," and followed with a series of messages. There was no acknowledgment. The air was suddenly still, and not until twenty-four hours later would the signals again be heard.

Investigation, so the report said, disclosed the fact that the mysterious calls, RP7 and RK3, were signals for amateur stations. Nothing else was known.

Typed at the bottom of each message were notes by the coast guard intercepting operator:

The above is certain to be correct for the signals were exceptionally loud, but the check doesn't agree nor the numbers. Unable to hear RP7 this watch.

The above code groups were intercepted on approximately fifty meters. Signals barely readable. Station already transmitting when tuned in and did not sign call at end of message.

RK3 sent the first message and then signaled "AR," meaning "I have finished, go ahead." RP7 transmitted, but our station was unable to copy on account of static. RK3 then signaled "AHR," meaning "Another here," and transmitted Part 2 of inclosure, not sending any address or signature. He signed off with "NM," meaning "No more."

These two stations apparently work on fixed schedule every morning from 5 A.M. to 5:30 A.M., Pacific coast time.

The intercepted messages were in ten-letter code groups. The following few lines will serve as an example:

FAFEQZIDNY VAFEITQUPU EXAPAJJAJI
AGENCICIJ FOLOUKRAAZ OJEGJEGLU-
ATNIOWUDJL...

I had read the report and the operator's comments hurriedly without paying any attention to the cipher messages. When I looked at them, my heart stood still. They were Japanese diplomatic code messages! Japan had discovered that we were reading her messages and had

established communication with Tokyo through high-frequency transmission. Such a step was illegal, a grave breach of international law.

They were, without question, encoded in what we called Jbb code, the twenty-eighth Japanese code we had broken since my original solution. I at last took the messages into the Japanese Department of the Black Chamber, and requested my assistants to give me a translation at once.

They told me the telegrams were so badly garbled that only phrases here and there could be read, but they were sufficiently clear to show the subject matter, which was the Chinese situation.

This gave us no clue as to their destination, for it is the custom of Tokyo to keep all embassies informed on international questions.

THE messages therefore might be from Peiping to Tokyo, or from Tokyo to Washington, London, Paris, or any other post. However, one of the telegrams was not encoded in Jbb code, but in Jw, an English-language code which the Japanese had compiled for encoding English-language telegrams. Though badly garbled, the message was without question a memorandum from our Secretary of State to the Japanese Foreign Office. It looked to me like a Washington-Tokyo telegram.

All this seemed to me conclusive proof that Japan had erected a high-frequency sending and receiving set on our soil.

I felt some hesitancy in sending my deductions to Washington. It might lead to very serious consequences. War had often been declared for less. However, there was nothing to do but report my findings. In making my report I urged Washington to attempt to locate the station by the use of a radio goniometer, which is an instrument that shows the direction from which the wave emanates. Much to my surprise, I was informed that the War Department equipment for high-frequency interception was not sufficiently modern for this experiment.

Washington was horrified at the thought that Japan

had secretly erected a wireless station in the United States. I was ordered to give instructions to bring the evidence to the War Department. When I showed the English-text telegram to my informant he had told me that he had longer filed their messages and he readily agreed with my conclusion that they were indeed looked serious indeed.

On my way back to New York I was determined by means of getting positive stations. For over a year I had prefaced their code telegrams. From the text of the telegrams I had nothing to do with. For this reason no one could attempt to find out what they were.

The first few letters, FAF, of the message already quoted were code groups. Now it suddenly appeared to decipher these groups, and the telegrams, I could then decipher the message passing between Washington-Tokyo telegram number 50. This mysterious intercept, Tokyo-Washington, 50. No. 50. Reference Code and discovery has a number a great deal or 50—say 10 or 200—then not a message passing between. On the other hand, if the serial number 40 or 50, I have good proof of their station on our soil.

THE Congressional Limitation on the use of the Philadelphia when this thought occurred in my mind. What had those intercepted messages looked like? I had deciphered them? Could I decipher them? I had awaited my arrival in New York and had unlocked my safe and found a sheaf of Japanese telegrams.

The process of deciphering the intercepted messages had proved barren of detailed details.

Having constructed the message from the intercepted messages with misgivings. Would my report that Japan had erected a wireless station in the United States? I began to decipher. One was enough.

FA FE OZ ID
0 1 86 —

I now had the answer to the question. The telegrams were not Washington-Tokyo telegrams. They were intercepted messages just as the serial number is 186. The number for approximately that from Tokyo to Washington and Tokyo.

I gave a sigh of relief, for the cause of a great deal of anxiety. I received my report I think they thought they forgot to decipher.

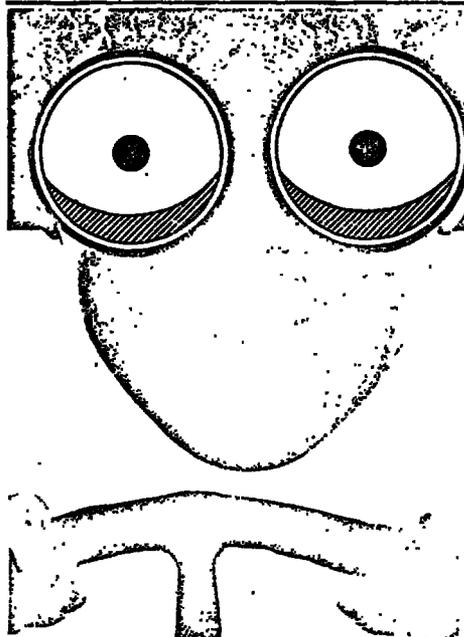
But this did not end the matter. That the Japanese Embassy in Washington, why were they not deciphered? I went to the Japanese Embassy and determined to find out. Whom on whom I had depended for the whole story.

"Now," I asked, "how do you decipher the Japanese Embassy is filing?"

"Maybe Blank is putting it in."

"Well, you know more about it than I do."

[CONCLUDED]



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This new kind of light even works entirely different.



Gives perfect illumination of entire roadway without shadows or flickering.

October 10, 1931

Double-Crossing America — By Herbert O. Yardley

had secretly erected a wireless station in the United States. I was ordered to Washington at once with instructions to bring the evidence on which I based my memorandum. When I showed them the decipherment of the English-text telegram and explained personally that my informant had told me that the Japanese Embassy no longer filed their messages with the cable companies, they readily agreed with my memorandum. The situation looked serious indeed.

On my way back to New York I thought of ways and means of getting positive proof of the location of the stations. For over a year the Tokyo Government had prefaced their code telegrams with a series of letters. From the text of the telegrams it was clear that the letters had nothing to do with the messages themselves. For this reason no one considered it worth while to attempt to find out what they meant.

The first few letters, FAFEOZIDNY VAFETQUPU, of the message already quoted are the indecipherable groups. Now it suddenly occurred to me that if I could decipher these groups, and if they gave the number of the telegrams, I could then determine whether they were passing between Washington and Tokyo. The Washington-Tokyo telegram number for February, the date of this mysterious intercept, is approximately 40; the Tokyo-Washington, 50. Now if I can break the Telegram Reference Code and discover that the telegram in question has a number a great deal larger or smaller than 40 or 50—say 10 or 200—then I am fairly certain that it is not a message passing between Washington and Tokyo. On the other hand, if the series number is approximately 40 or 50, I have good proof that Japan has erected a station on our soil.

THE Congressional Limited was pulling out of Philadelphia when this thought suddenly flashed through my mind. What had those first few letters of each telegram looked like? I had paid little attention to them. Could I decipher them? For two hours I impatiently awaited my arrival in New York, and was not happy until I had unlocked my safe and scattered before me on my flat-topped desk a sheaf of Japanese diplomatic code telegrams.

The process of deciphering was intricate, and as its success proved barren of direct results, I omit the technical details.

Having constructed the table to my satisfaction, I turned to the intercepted messages between RP7 and RK3 with misgivings. Would my table confirm my deduction that Japan had erected a wireless station in the United States? I began to decipher these groups of letters. One was enough.

FA	FE	OZ	ID	NY	VA	FE	IT
0	1	86	—	13th	my	1	81

I now had the answer to my problem. The mysterious telegrams were not Washington-Tokyo messages. They were transmitted between Japanese posts. Although the intercepted message just quoted was sent February 13, the serial number is 186. Now the Washington-to-Tokyo number for approximately the same date is only 40, and that from Tokyo to Washington only 50. This is proof that the RK3 and RP7 wireless intercepts are not between Washington and Tokyo.

I gave a sigh of relief, for I had innocently been the cause of a great deal of anxiety. When Washington received my report I think they were so relieved at my findings that they forgot to censure me for guessing wrong.

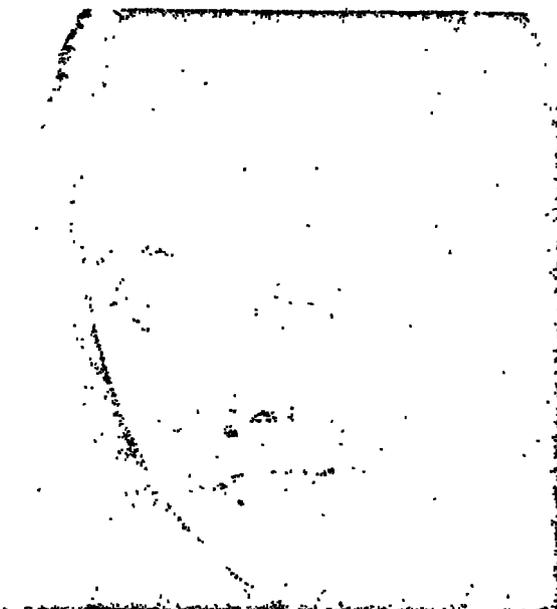
But this did not end the episode. Now that we knew that the Japanese Embassy were not using a private wireless, why were they not filing their messages with the established lines? I went to Washington the next day, determined to find out. When I arrived I called in a man on whom I had depended for information and told him the whole story.

"Now," I asked, "how do you account for the fact that the Japanese Embassy is filing no telegrams?"

"Maybe Blank is putting something over on you," he said with a smile.

"Well, you know more about him than I do. He's your man."

[CONCLUDED ON NEXT PAGE]



CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG—who recently made her initial talking picture, *Kept Husbands*, for Radio Pictures, after an absence from the screen of many years. Who would dream, looking at this recent picture, that she is 38!

"I am 38!" says

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This lovely favorite is only one of the hundreds of Hollywood actresses who use Lux Toilet Soap regularly.

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There is one sure way that never fails to remove dandruff completely, and that is to dissolve it. Then you destroy it entirely. To do this, just apply a little Liquid Arvon at night before retiring; use enough to moisten the scalp and rub it in gently with the finger tips.

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["DOUBLE-CROSSING AMERICA"]

Continued from page forty-one

"No one knows much about him," he said. Then, "Going to be in town long? Meet me at the cigar store at Sixteenth and New York Avenue at noon. I may have something then to report."

When I met him there he seemed to think he had a good joke on me.

"Say, Yardley," he began, "that fellow has been lying to you. The Japanese are sending plenty of telegrams."

Making connections to obtain copies of the diplomatic telegrams of foreign governments in this country is not easy. They are not hauled around in wagons as they are in England. It was past midnight before we arrived at a satisfactory plan.

WITHIN a few weeks messages found their way by devious means into the Black Chamber. We were just in time, for on March 24 the Chinese situation became acute. The Japanese telegrams as deciphered by us and sent to Washington showed that there was talk of intervention. The Great Powers, seeing their opportunity for spoils, began to spar with each other. England and Japan could not forget the Anglo-Japanese Alliance that had been of such concern to the United States before it had been abrogated. There was talk of renewing it. We found England and Japan making joint and, so they thought, secret plans in China. They were maneuvering to isolate America.

Paragraphs from a few of the hundreds of Japanese telegrams that the Black Chamber deciphered follow:

From Tokyo
To London
May 14, 1927.

On May 18th the British Ambassador called upon the Foreign Minister. A summary of their interview follows:

The British Ambassador referred to point two of my cablegram mentioned above, and said that the British Minister for Foreign Affairs enter-

tained the hope that in future a better understanding and agreement would be reached between Japan and Great Britain with reference to Chinese questions.

The Foreign Minister replied that there should not be a constant change of policy with regard to Chinese matters and that he thought that instead of a general understanding it would be better to have a frank interchange of views

between the two countries in a spirit of cooperation every time one of these questions should arise.

The Ambassador asked why the first step could not be taken now to begin conferences between Japan and Great Britain and to fix a common policy on questions which required immediate solution, such as the question of foreign concessions, the question of the extent to which the so-called treaty rights are to be abandoned, and other similar questions. . . .

From London
To Tokyo

May 17, 1927.

On May 17th (?) Aglen called and discussed the Chinese question. . . . Aglen replied that . . . the Minister for Foreign Affairs had had an interview with King George and had observed that the King had an unexpectedly good understanding of the Chinese situation. . . .

I remarked that the idea of cooperation between Japan and Great Britain might be said to be a very efficacious argument. . . . but that it was impossible to ignore the United States. I added that if the United States were to be included, it was questionable whether a joint policy could be reached.

Aglen said he did not think that it was essential for the United States to be included and that the only thing to do was for Japan and the British Empire to begin conversations by themselves. . . .

But for the intercepted Japanese wireless messages that led us first to suspect a Japanese station on American soil, which in turn led to the lies of my informant, the Black Chamber would not have come into possession of these messages which created such a stir in Washington.

THE END

September 5th Limerick Winners

\$100 FIRST PRIZE

A wise secretary was May
Who wrote what the boss meant to say.
In fact, when he read it
He thought he had said it—

A misunderstanding, each way.
Mary E. Mahoney, Boston, Mass.

\$50 SECOND PRIZES

And he had—in a "belluva" way.
Sven J. Swanfeldt, Schenectady, N. Y.
Her "type" made him see it that way.
J. C. Dart, Manilla, Iowa.

\$25 THIRD PRIZES

A Jill after "jack" finds a way.
Althen Thurston, Los Angeles, Calif.
Now she's bright—from the "rays" in her pay!
Bernard Greenberg, Allentown, Pa.

Her type made his type seem O.K.
Frank J. Gilbert, Philadelphia, Pa.
"All's swell" with his head and her 1927.
James S. Cleland, Chicago, Ill.

\$10 PRIZES

Paul B. Wimer, Lancaster, Pa.; Mrs. Sadie S. Franz, Alhambra, Calif.; A. E. Ackler, Toronto, Canada; L. E. Stevenson, Washington, D. C.; G. A. Aman, Hyattsville, Md.; Loubel Taylor, Ridgewood, N. J.; Chas. G. Shepherd, Elmhurst, Ill.; Paul E. Miller, Buffalo, N. Y.; Vaughn H. Knight, Lee, Maine; Mrs. J. E. Smith, Toledo, Ohio; Ruth S. Mackay, Covington, Ky.; Mrs. Elmer T. Abel, Washington, D. C.; F. W. Ross, Oswatonga, Kans.; Mrs. Elsie M. Roll, Little Rock, Ark.; B. Fenclly, Toronto, Canada; Ethel Matthews, Gibsonburg, Ohio; Catherine M. Henson, Clarkdale, Ariz.; Louise Purcell, Miami, Fla.; Betty Lou Haller, Los Angeles, Calif.; Chas. W. Crane, Whitehall, Mont.