

1 November, 1927.

REF ID:A66388

Commander H. D. Hinckley,
U. S. Coast Guard,
Superintendent Coast Guard Academy,
New London, Conn.

My dear Commander:

Through a coincidence I today learned that Major Friedman, cryptanalyst in the office of the Chief Signal Officer, War Department, has accepted your invitation to lecture the cadets and officers of the Coast Guard in New London on the subject of "Cryptography", and has designated 16 December, 1927 as the date on which it will be most convenient for him to speak.

"Cryptography" and "Codes and Signals" being practically one and the same thing, it would appear that both Major Friedman and myself have been invited to lecture on the same subject, and that I have been assigned the date, 16 December 1927, most desired by him.

Inasmuch as Major Friedman is the leading American authority on the subject of codes, ciphers and signals, and is far more competent than am I, a rank amateur, to discuss this highly interesting subject, I am going to ask that you permit me to withdraw my acceptance of your kind invitation and that you assign my date, 16 December 1927, to Major Friedman.

Major Friedman has had a vast amount of experience in code and cipher work, he is the author of several books on the subject, and is a most interesting speaker to whom it is a pleasure to listen. I feel that I would be doing the cadets and officers at New London an injustice were I to stand in the way of his speaking on the date mentioned, and for this reason I will ask that you permit me to withdraw in his favor.

Very sincerely,

FRANK M. NEALS.

Dear Major: I think this will fix us up ok. I regret that I won't be able to hear you speak but am looking forward to be able to hear you in Washington soon.

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