SRH-026

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE CHIEF OF STAFF
Washington, D. C.

March 15, 1944

Dear Eisenhower:

You are undoubtedly aware of the supreme importance which the War Department attaches to intelligence known as "Ultra". This intelligence is secured by the British from reading German enciphered radio communications.

The attached Tab sets forth the basis upon which German "Ultra" intelligence is made available to American field commands. Please give this matter your personal attention, and take all necessary steps to insure that the security regulations governing the dissemination of "Ultra" intelligence are meticulously observed. The arrangements described in the attached Tab are to be fully carried out.

Faithfully yours,

/s/ G.C. MARSHALL

General D. D. Eisenhower,
Supreme Headquarters,
Allied Expeditionary Force,
London, England.

DECLASSIFIED per Sec. 3, E. O. [illegible]
by Director, NSA/Chief, [illegible]
WRH Date 12/28/78

1. A large volume of highly important military and air intelligence is derived by the British from reading German radio communications enciphered in high-level German cipher systems. This type of intelligence is known as "Ultra" intelligence.

2. The basis upon which German Ultra intelligence is made available by the British to the US War Department and to American Field Commands in active theaters is governed by an agreement made in June, 1943 between the US War Department and the responsible British organization.

3. The British organization which produces Ultra intelligence is the Government Code and Cipher School, the Director General of which is Brigadier Sir Stewart Menzies.

4. Administration of the agreement of June 1943 is controlled by the British through Brigadier Menzies, and by the US War Department through the A. C. of S., G-2.

5. To carry out the agreement of June 1943, and to assist in and supervise the dissemination of Ultra intelligence to American Commands in the European Theater, a detachment of MID, the title of which is MID, War Department, London, has been detailed for service in the European Theater. This detachment is under the direct control of the A.C. of S., G-2, and the Commanding Officer of the detachment is the representative of the A. C. of S., G-2, on all matters relating to or affecting Ultra intelligence in the European Theater.

6. Security regulations governing the dissemination and handling of Ultra intelligence within the European and Mediterranean Theaters have been approved by the US War Department and will become effective on 1 April 1944.

7. Under the agreement of June 1943 and the security regulations of 1 April 1944, the basis of disseminating Ultra intelligence to American Commands in the European Theater is as follows:

a. Ultra intelligence produced by G.C. & C.S. (including the component of the US Signal Corps at G.C. & C.S.) is disseminated to Field Commands only by means of special communication channels established and controlled by the Director General, G.C. & C.S.

b. Communications between Field Commands which discuss or mention Ultra intelligence must be passed only over the above special communication channels.

c. American officers participate at G.C. & C.S. in the selection of Ultra intelligence for dissemination to the Field Commands and in the preparation of the messages in which the Ultra intelligence is so disseminated. These officers are attached to MID, War Department, London.

d. The receipt and distribution, at the Field Commands, of messages containing or relating to Ultra intelligence, is handled by Special Liaison Units furnished and controlled by the Director General, G.C. & C.S. The personnel of these units includes American officers attached to MID, War Department, London.

e. The Special Liaison Units distribute Ultra intelligence messages only to officers at the Field Commands who are listed as entitled to receive Ultra intelligence. The eligibility of officers for listing as authorized Ultra intelligence recipients is governed by the security regulations of 1 April 1944. The Director General, G.C. & C.S., and the Commanding Officer of MID, War Department, London, administer the provisions of the agreement relating to admission of American officers in your theater to the list.

f. One or more American officers assigned to MID, War Department, London, will be detailed to each American Field Command, which receives Ultra intelligence. These officers will be subject to the administration and discipline of the Command to which they are detailed. They will work under the control of the G-2 or A-2 of the Command as part of his staff. They will have had a period of training at G.C. & C.S., and, if possible, with operational commands in the Mediterranean Theater, and this training will be directed toward equipping them to use Ultra intelligence effectively and securely. Their primary responsibility will be to evaluate Ultra intelligence, present it in useable form to the Commanding Officer and to such of his senior staff officers as are authorized Ultra recipients, assist in fusing Ultra intelligence with intelligence derived from other sources, and give advice in connection with making operational use of Ultra intelligence in such fashion that the security of the source is not endangered. If at any time the flow of Ultra intelligence is not sufficient to occupy fully the time of these officers, they may be used for other related intelligence assignments.

8. The Commanding Officer and the G-2's and A-2's of all American Field Commands in your theater, which receive Ultra intelligence, will take all steps necessary to insure that the requirements of this letter and of the security regulations of 1 April 1944, are fully carried out. In order to safeguard the continued availability of this enormously important source of intelligence, it is vital that these security regulations be meticulously observed, and that all personnel entitled to handle or receive Ultra intelligence take all possible precautions in connection with its handling and use. When operational action is taken on the basis of Ultra intelligence, the utmost care must be taken, by means of proper cover, to insure that the action does not reveal or in any way suggest that this source of intelligence is at our disposal.

9. It is of particular importance that:

a. Ultra intelligence be transmitted to the Field Commands only by those special channels mentioned in paragraphs 7a and b above, and that communications discussing or mentioning Ultra intelligence be transmitted only by those channels;

b. Ultra intelligence be discussed orally only with personnel of the field commands who are listed as authorized recipients of Ultra intelligence; and

c. Full facilities and opportunity be extended to the MID, War Department, London, officers detailed to Field Commands in order to enable them to perform their duties fully and effectively. The Commanding Officer, MID, War Department, London, and his principal assistants, will visit the field commands as occasion requires to consult with the G-2's or A-2's on methods of handling and using Ultra intelligence and on the scope and method of servicing Ultra intelligence from G.C. & C.S. to the field commands.

10. The contents of this letter will be communicated to the Commanding Officers and G-2's or A-2's of all American Field Commands in your theater which receive Ultra intelligence.