

January's Enigma Newsletter: Would you have made a good analyst of decrypted German Enigma messages at Bletchley Park? Let's see.

During the months and years preceding the D Day landings on June 6, 1944, the Allies perpetrated several schemes to convince the Germans that the time, place, and number of troops scheduled for the invasion were different than those that were actually planned. Regarding the time of the invasion, information was fed to the Germans in an effort to convince them that the invasion would come late in June, or possibly in July, to take advantage of hopefully improving weather. Did the Germans believe it?

This is the text of Bletchley Park (BP) message decrypt serial number KV5689. I have added a few words to help improve readability. The decrypt was made available at 2131 (9:31 PM) on 29 May 1944. The message was sent from the German Commander-in-Chief West to Headquarters mildly complaining that he was not getting his full fuel ration to mix the amount of concrete he would need to carry-on building Hitler's "Atlantic Wall" defenses during the upcoming summer. On the surface, the message seems of little importance. But, what lies beneath? Can you find the two key parts of the message that proved to the codebreakers at BP that the Germans had fallen for the trick and were expecting the invasion later than the time for which it was actually scheduled? The answers are on page 2.

Let's use my U-571 codesheets, February 2, 1944, with Kennguppen

0550 1tle 1tle 360 GCM TAR

WNKBC ARGKT VTMOF EKBRE DWHTW DLXTK GFHJD MVPQZXZ VOKSC VXIBX QENUB JSAJR TDTBA
PZBUL EKMFV OZQTD VFREG EYABF WPFSS ZMCRM NMMLS GWFFA HFAJJ LJWQS JRDJU RISDT ZVIMG
CNFWZ GZXZF UWYAT BCRUT NBVES GYMDM TXYIR PGUVQ QRMFW SIISJ NZYAU SXAUM HKZGS XUHDZ
KSBDB BSOMX ZFGWY FHJLE HVLNQ ITHQN KOJHH HAONW CXHRZ USPWG WOZUI XQCTK LMPSL IDNBT
NVVCR NYWRG FOKOV JLCWG YDNVP HVOIT NTFHE VRTYA IZHNL ODZDX ATUVH LCAKC RDMJC KFLFK
RGLHT SSMFL ECQSI OSBGH XAZGC XINJL IRPAA HEOSL XBJLL OMVLO ZDCEZ HKLQN JZXTJ JTXTS

The key phrases:

“ . . . provided that it could be carried out without considerable disturbance.” I don’t think I would go too far wrong in saying that 175,000 Allied troops landing on the coast on June 6 would qualify as a “ . . . considerable disturbance.”

“ . . . if after the first ten days of June the situation can be reviewed as a whole.” Yes, I would say that after the first ten days of June, the situation would definitely have to be reviewed as a whole.