

Macedonald - High Commissioner - Suva

Grateful to learn if any luck yet stop the cost of chartering is too much
for government could I please pay difference privately or if you have been
unsuccessful I would like to try to find a private charter stop I think I can manage
it as I know the people and am in daily touch with Popeete via Christmas stop
Captains often opposed to taking women and children on New Zealand run at present
and no woman can be left alone on this island without a protector stop the little
better than a madhouse stop Cheers

Wander.

60
7
420 84

Grateful to learn if any luck yet stop if cost of chartering is too much for government could I please pay difference privately or if you have been unsuccessful I would like to try to fix a private charter stop I think I can manage it as I know the people and am in daily touch with Papeete via Christmas stop Captains appear opposed to taking women and children on New Zealand run at present and no woman can be left alone on this island without a protector stop Its little better than a madhouse stop Cheerio Maude

Telegram.

From:- The Naval Secretary, the Navy Office, Wellington, New Zealand,

To:- The High Commission Representative, Pitcairn Island.

14th January, 1941.

Concur your memorandum of 9th December.

Navy Office.

Telegram.

From:- The Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission, Suva, Fiji,

To:- The High Commission Representative, Pitcairn Island.

No. 19.

12th December, 1940.

Secret - Your telegram No. 17 - I approve. Certificate
of destruction will be required in due course.

Secretary.

Confidential.

MEMORANDUM.

12th December, 1940.

From:-

The High Commission Representative,
Pitcairn Island.

To:-

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

Key Words for use with Playfair's code.

With reference to the confidential letter dated the 5th November, from the Naval Secretary to yourself, I have handed the list of key words forming the enclosure to the Government Wireless Operator, Mr Nelson Dyett, for his own use.

2. A second system of key words, for your own use when sending confidential messages to the High Commissioner or the Naval Secretary is enclosed herewith. This list should be regarded as absolutely SECRET and no person should be permitted to see the contents other than the Island Secretary and yourself. It is not considered necessary that the Government Wireless Operator should have a copy of these key words, which are for the use of the Chief Magistrate alone.

3. I have informed the Naval Secretary, Wellington, of my action.

(Signed). H.E. MAUDE.

Confidential.

MEMORANDUM.

12th December, 1940.

From:-
The High Commission Representative,
Pitcairn Island.

To:-
The Government Wireless Operator,
Pitcairn Island.

The Pitcairn Island Radio Station.

With reference to the wireless message from the Navy Office to yourself, dated the 5th December, of which you furnished me with a copy, I am forwarding to you herewith the only local copy of the key words as sent by the Navy Office.

2. This list should be kept by you in safe custody at all times as the key words have been shown to no-one else on the island and no other copy exists locally. It will therefore not be possible for any local person other than yourself to decipher a message in this code.

3. The Chief Magistrate is being provided with a separate set of key words for his own use when sending government messages to the High Commissioner or the Naval Secretary.

(Signed). H.E. Maude.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Pitcairn Island,

9th December, 1940.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a copy of a confidential letter to the Naval Secretary, Wellington, in which I state that I consider it desirable that separate lists of key words, for use with the Playfair code, should be given to the Government Wireless Operator, Mr Nelson Dyett, and the Chief Magistrate.

2. In anticipation of the Naval Secretary's approval, I have prepared a list of key words, enclosed with my letter to him, for the use of the Chief Magistrate in any confidential communications with either the Navy Office or yourself. The other set, of which the Naval Secretary has no doubt furnished you with a copy, has been handed to Mr Dyett for his own use. According to the instructions received from the Navy Office, all traffic to and from Pitcairn Island should be sent in code and Mr Dyett, therefore, codes or decodes the various private messages between the islanders and New Zealand.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed). H.E. Maude.

High Commission Representative,
Pitcairn Island.

The Secretary,

Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji.

Sub-enclosure.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Pitcairn Island,

9th December, 1940.

Sir,

With reference to your confidential letter N.A. 8/10/17 of the 5th November, addressed to the Chief Magistrate, I have the honour to inform you that in view of the existence of a certain amount of friction, of which you are aware, between the Government Wireless Operator, Mr Nelson Dyett, and the local administration, I consider it desirable that neither Mr Dyett nor the Chief Magistrate should possess duplicate sets of the key words employed by the other.

2. Although there has been no actual trouble between the two parties during my stay on the island, relations are at the best somewhat strained, and I am anxious to minimize the possibility of further incidents occurring after my departure by removing, whenever it can be done, all potential causes of future friction. While the general question of the unfortunate mutual antagonism between Mr Dyett and the local government can best be discussed with you personally on my return to New Zealand next month, it would appear that cooperation is rendered difficult as long as Mr Dyett fears that his messages are being intercepted on local receivers (and conceivably deciphered), while the Chief Magistrate feels that he

The Naval Secretary,
Navy Office,
Wellington, N.Z.

feels that he is unable to send any message concerning island affairs to the High Commissioner without it being possible for Mr Dyett to make himself aware of the contents or even to alter the message. However little evidence there may be to support such beliefs and fears, while both parties are using the same key words and are therefore theoretically able to read or tamper with each others messages there is always a possibility of misunderstandings occurring, leading to further recriminations.

3. As the Chief Magistrate was averse from opening your confidential letter referred to above, I opened it myself and kept it locked in my official safe. On being shown a copy of your wireless message of the 5th December to Mr Dyett, I decided that the best course to take would be to hand the key words enclosed with your letter to Mr Dyett himself, for his own use, and prepare a separate set of key words for the use of the Chief Magistrate. It should be emphasized that no-one except myself has seen the set of key words enclosed with your letter and that therefore there can be no question of anyone being able to decipher Mr Dyett's messages in future.

4. I enclose a copy of the key words which I am leaving with the Chief Magistrate for use when sending any confidential communications to either the Western Pacific High Commission or yourself. As his messages are likely to be very few - probably not more than one or two a year - I have prepared only six words, to be changed every two months. No copy of these key words is being furnished to Mr Dyett.

5. The above arrangements are, of course, entirely subject to your

subject to your approval and should you prefer to continue the former system I will arrange for a copy of the key words now in Mr Dyett's possession to be given to the Chief Magistrate and the set now in his safe to be destroyed. I should be glad, therefore, if you could let me know by telegram should you desire the old system to be reverted to, in order that I may be in a position to make the necessary alterations before my departure.

6. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Secretary to the Western Pacific High Commission.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed). H.E. Maude.

High Commission Representative,
Pitcairn Island.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

SECRET.

Pitcairn Island,

28th November, 1940.

Sir,

With reference to your secret letter of the 28th September and my secret telegram of the 28th November, I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter to the Naval Secretary, Wellington, in which I state that in my opinion the Playfair code is more suitable than the transposition cipher for use in Pitcairn Island.

2. As stated in my telegram referred to above, I propose to continue to use the transposition cipher for my own confidential messages until my departure from the island, when I will destroy the cipher.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed). H.E. Maude.

High Commission Representative,
Pitcairn Island.

The Secretary,
Western Pacific High Commission,
Suva, Fiji.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.

SECRET.

Pitcairn Island,

28th November, 1940.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your secret letter N.A. 030/33/13 of the 13th September enquiring which of the two secret codes at present in use on Pitcairn Island is the most suitable for permanent adoption by the local authorities. In reply I would state that in my opinion the Playfair code not only possesses a greater degree of security in comparison with the transposition cipher but is also simpler to operate, and in view of the islanders' lack of experience in working code systems simplicity and ease of operation are of paramount importance. I therefore recommend that the Playfair code only should be used on the island by both the local government and Mr Nelson Dyett.

2. As, however, it is essential that I should be in a position to send certain messages to the High Commission which cannot be deciphered locally, I am continuing to use the transposition cipher for my own confidential communications. I have informed the authorities in Suva by wireless that the cipher will be destroyed before my departure from the island.

3. I am addressing you separately concerning the desirability of having a separate set of key words for
the use of

The Naval Secretary,
Navy Office,
Wellington, C.I. N.Z.

the use of the local administration and Mr Nelson Dyett.

4. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Secretary to the Western Pacific High Commission.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed). H.E. Maude.

High Commission Representative,
Pitcairn Island.

SECRET.

Cypher - Transposition.

Telegram.

From:- The High Commission Representative, Pitcairn Island,

To:- The Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission, Suva, Fiji.

No. 17.

28th November, 1940.

Your secret letter of twenty eighth September received.
I should prefer to continue sending confidential messages
on island matters by your transposition cypher as Navy
Office have furnished local Wireless Operator with copy
of Playfair code. I will destroy cypher before leaving
island.

Maude.

SECRET.

Code - Playfairs.

Telegram.

From:- The Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission, Suva, Fiji,

To:- The High Commission Representative, Suva, Fiji.

No. 12.

26th November, 1940.

Have you received my secret letter of the 28th September - when letter of the 3rd September was written it was not realized that Navy Office had supplied Playfair code for use in Pitcairn. Unless you see any reason to the contrary Playfair code should be adopted for use and code sent with my letter of the 3rd September should be destroyed.

Secretary.

ORIGINAL ~~DUPLICATE~~

SCHEDULE OF CONTENTS OF SEALED BAG NO. 417/1.....

FORWARDED TO H.E. Maude, Esq., M.B.E., Resident Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

PER MASTER OF "Mahia....." ON 9th November 1940.....

The duplicate copy of this schedule should be signed and returned to the Navy Office, Wellington, New Zealand, immediately after contents have been checked.

No. of Articles	Addressee	Marks or Numbers
One Sealed Envelope	H.E. Maude, Esq., M.B.E., Resident Magistrate, Pitcairn Island.	N/N
One Sealed Envelope	Mr. Nelson Dyett, W/T Operator, Pitcairn.	N/N
One Packet	Mr. Nelson Dyett, W/T Operator, Pitcairn.	N/N

The contents of sealed bag No. 417/1, as detailed in the above schedule, have been received by me at Pitcairn Island this twenty third day of November, 1940.

SLM

High Commission Representative,
Pitcairn Island.

SECRET



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI.

Secret.

No. 523(S).

28th September, 1940.

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to acknowledge the receipt of your unnumbered telegram of the 25th September, reporting the receipt of the transposition cypher forwarded under cover of my secret letter No. 523(S) of the 3rd September, and to forward, for your information, an excerpt from a letter received from the Naval Secretary, Wellington, on the subject of codes in use in Pitcairn Island.

2. Prior to your departure from the island you should report by telegraph which code you consider to be the most suitable for use there.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

For Secretary to the High Commission.

H.E. Maude, Esquire, M.B.E., M.A.,

Deputy Commissioner for the Pitcairn Group,

Pitcairn Island.

EXCERPT.

N.A. 030/33/13.

Navy Office,

Wellington, C.I.

13th September, 1940.

Secret.

Sir,

... ..

With reference to paragraph 4 thereof I have to advise Your Excellency that a code, known as the Playfair Code, having a rather greater degree of security than the cypher proposed, is in use for all wireless communications between Pitcairn and Wellington. This code could be made available for the use of the Office of the High Commissioner also.

It is considered undesirable to have two separate codes in use in such a small and inexperienced community as exists at Pitcairn Island.

Mr. H.E. Maude, M.B.E., is aware of the existence of the Playfair Code at present in use at Pitcairn and, in anticipation of Your Excellency having no objection, has been asked to report which of the two codes he considers preferable for permanent use there.

... .. I have, etc.,

His Excellency

(Signed) N.T.P. Cooper,
Naval Secretary.

The High Commissioner for the Western Pacific,

Suva.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
ADDRESSED TO
"THE NAVAL SECRETARY."



DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

PLEASE QUOTE FOLLOWING
IN REPLY:

N.A. 030/33/13.

SECRET

NAVY OFFICE,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

13th September, 1940.

Sir,

I have the honour to ask that you will inform me, in due course, whether you consider the Playfair Code now in the possession of Mr. Nelson Dyett, or the cipher forwarded by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific in the care of Mr. A.E. Fuller, is preferable for adoption at Pitcairn.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Naval Secretary.

Mr. H.E. Maude, M.B.E.,
Deputy Commissioner,
PITCAIRN ISLAND.

REGISTERED ARTICLES FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS.

Herewith are forwarded one Registered Articles from H.M.S.

“.....” at

date 17 9 1940



1—No.	2—Name	3—Address in full
1	H. C. Maudslayi M.B.E.	
2	D. J. G. Commissioner	
3		1 Secret letter
4	Pitcairn Island. N.Z.	03/22/12
5		17.9.1940
6		

Total Number (in words) only 1 letter

Signature of Despatching Officer H. C. Maudslayi

Date
Stamp

Received the above one Registered Article(s) this 11th day of October, 1940

H. C. Maudslayi
Signature of Receiving Officer.

EXTRACT FROM "FIELD SERVICE POCKET BOOK, 1926".

CHAPTER 8, SECTION 45.

CYPHERS AND CODES.

1. A cipher is a secret means of communication.

A code is a non-secret means of communication by which messages can be sent in shorter form⁺

2. The following rules will govern the process of enciphering and deciphering messages.

- i. No cipher message will ever contain paragraphs partly in clear and partly in cipher.
- ii. Ciphers or decipherers will never be written on the same sheet as the original message.
- iii. Every cipher message will be checked before despatch.
- iv. Reference to cipher messages will be avoided in code or clear messages and in ordinary correspondence.
- v. Replies to cipher messages will be in cipher.
- vi. If it is absolutely necessary to reply in cipher to a code or clear message reference to the code or clear message will be enciphered.
- vii. Letter cipher groups will be written in block capitals.
- viii. Figure cipher groups will be arranged in groups of five figures.
- ix. All papers used in the process of ciphering and deciphering will be destroyed.

⁺Certain naval codes prefixed "confidential" will be treated as secret in the army.

- x. If it is necessary to give wide circulation to a cipher message, a paraphrase of it will be made for the purpose, and clearly marked "Paraphrase".
- xi. The method of enciphering and the "keywords" used will be kept secret.

3. Ciphers for use in the field may be divided into two main classes:-

- i. Field cipher books.
- ii. Field cipher systems.

By the former, words and sentences are represented by arbitrarily chosen cipher groups of letters or figures.

4. The latter may be divided into two main systems:-

- i. Transposition in which the position of the letters of the text is altered according to some definite plan.
- ii. Substitution in which each letter of the text has substituted for it another letter or a pair of figures.

5. Transposition cipher

The following is a simple transposition cipher:-

- i. A "keyword" must be provided to operate this cipher, the length of the keyword should vary between 12 and 24 letters, and will be changed frequently if the cipher traffic is considerable. A keyword may consist of two or more words, thus
"COLONELCOMMANDANT"
- ii. Suppose the keyword is "TRANSPOSITIONCIPHER",
- iii.

iii. This keyword is numbered off to form the "key" in the following manner:-

Under the first letter of the alphabet to occur, working from left to right, put the figure 1, under the second letter the figure 2, and continue with all the remaining letters of the keyword.

If a letter occurs more than once, to each subsequent repetition (working from left to right) allot the next number in order of sequence, thus:-

T	R	A	N	S	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N	C	I	P	H	E	R
18.	14.	1.	8.	16.	12.	10.	17.	5.	19.	6.	11.	9.	2.	7.	13.	4.	3.	15.

iv. Under this key the message must now be written, figures and punctuations being spelt out:-

Let the message to be enciphered be:-

"Before using any cipher book or system the instructions should be carefully read."

This is written under the key as follows:-

18.	14.	1.	8.	16.	12.	10.	17.	5.	19.	6.	11.	9.	2.	7.	13.	4.	3.	15.
B	E	F	O	R	E	U	S	I	N	G	A	N	Y	C	I	P	H	E
R	B	O	O	K	O	R	S	Y	S	T	E	M	T	H	E	I	N	S
T	R	U	C	T	I	O	N	S	S	H	O	U	L	D	B	E	C	A
R	E	F	U	L	L	Y	R	E	A	D								

v. The letters of the text of the message are then transposed as follows:-

Take the letters vertically beginning with the column under the figure 1, viz., F O U F, followed by those under 2,3,4, &c., viz., Y T L , H N C , P I E , &c. and write them down in groups of five letters on the message form as below:-

FOUFY	TLHNC	PIEY	SEGTH	DCHDO
OCUNM	UUROY	AEOEO	ILIEB	EBREE
SARKT	LSSNR	BRTRN	SSA +	

vi. The last line of letters when written under the key as in iv. should never be a complete line; if necessary dummy letters should be added to make the frame irregular.

vii. The total number of letters in the ciphered message will be given immediately before the first cipher group, thus, in the example given above:-

68 FOUFY TLHNC, &c.

6. To decipher

i. Number off the keyword to form the key as described in para. 5.iii.

ii. Divide the total number of letters received by the number of letters in the keyword, this will give the number of complete rows and the number of letters in the bottom row of the frame. In the example given $68 \div 19 = 3$ complete rows of 19 letters + 11 letters in the fourth or bottom row.

iii.

+ If the final letter group contains less than five letters never complete to a five letter group.

iii. Beneath the key then construct a frame containing 3 complete rows of 19 spaces and a fourth row of 11 spaces, and write in vertically the letters of the received text beginning with the column under the figure 1, followed by the columns under the figures 2, 3, 4, &c., until the frame is completely filled in.

In the example given above the frame with the first six five-letter groups of the received text written into it would be:-

18.	14.	1.	8.	16.	12.	10.	17.	5.	19.	6.	11.	9.	2.	7.	13.	4.	3.	15
		F	O					I		G		N	Y	C		P	H	
		O	O					Y		T		M	T	H		I	N	
		U	C					S		H			L	D		E	C	
		F	U					E		D								

iv. The message is then read from the frame.

The above system becomes much more secure if the same process is repeated a second time, a different keyword being chosen for the second transposition.