

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

### M2114: A NAVAL ENIGMA

16 February 1998

Dear Editors,

I am delighted to read in *Cryptologia* the paper<sup>1</sup> describing the German Information Technology Security Collection located in Bonn-Mehlem. I shall most certainly try to make arrangements to visit this collection during my next trip to Germany.

A comment: Figure 7 of this article bears the caption, "Enigma, Army model with three rotors, serial no. M 2114". Surely M2114 is a three-rotor Navy Enigma [M3]. It is, further, a rather well known example, being the subject of the series of thirty or so photographs taken by Morton Swimmer in 1995. These photographs are widely distributed on the Internet/www<sup>2</sup> and are the source of the graphics incorporated into Dirk Reimers' computer simulations. The three rotors in the machine at the time it was photographed do not, in fact, appear to be those with which M2114 was originally equipped. They clearly bear the markings of two different Army machines: A19771 (III? & V) and A19811 (II).

M2114's keyboard can be seen to have the numbers 1-9 on the upper row [QWERTZUIO] of keys, while the 'zero' shares the 'P' key on the bottom row. This feature of early M3 and M4 machines - another example of which is Bletchley Park's M4 [M3097] - was absent from later naval Enigmas.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> A First German Cryptologia Exhibition, Michael van der Meulen, *Cryptologia*, 22(1): 33-48.

<sup>2</sup> Morton Swimmer's photographs are available from the URL:  
<http://www.und.nodak.edu/org/crypto/crypto/graphlcs/enigma/>

<sup>3</sup> ENIGMA\_W.ZIP by Dirk Reimers, may be downloaded from the source:  
<ftp://ftp.informatik.uni-hamburg.de/pub/virus/crypt/enigma/simulators/>

