

RESEARCH BRANCH SECRET WAR DIARY

6th March SEARCH FOR OVERHEARING EQUIPMENT IN THE BRITISH EMBASSIES AT ANKARA,
1944 ISTANBUL AND ALGIERS (Cont'd)

The other two houses are of more conventional modern construction; the chief point worthy of record being the presence in both of them of French telephones and associated wiring no longer in use. These instruments were duly removed and with the aid of American signalmen the obsolete wiring at the Minister's villa was recovered.

No evidence of the installation of illicit equipment was discovered at Ankara, Istanbul or Algiers.

16th March ELECTROLYTIC PAPER STRIP FOR ARMY LIGHTWEIGHT TELEWRITER

1944

Owing to difficulty in obtaining electrolytic paper (potassium iodide-starch-glycerine impregnated) with adequate rapid wetting properties for the Army Lightweight Telewriter, a modified specification designed to select suitable base paper has been prepared.

18th March SCHEME 161

1944

The third pair of terminals 161C and 161F, due for completion on March 31st, were completed today and sent to dispersal sites. The repeater station 161 H was completed on March 4th and forwarded to Swanage for installation.

31st March M.S.S. RECORDING COMPANY LIMITED

1944

Two extension buildings designed by the Ministry of Works for erection at Wraysbury have been approved and final drawings are being prepared. One building will contain zinc and steel stores, zinc turning, buffing, polishing and degreasing departments, and a store for finished circles that are ready for spraying. The other building will house the packing department, which is now necessary as a result of large orders for the Ministry of Supply and Admiralty.

A new building for the assembly of recording equipment for the Admiralty and other customers at Colnbrook is under consideration and sketch plans are being prepared by the Ministry of Works. The estimated cost of these buildings are (a) at Wraysbury - £8,000 and (b) at Colnbrook - £5,000.

RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR THE ADMIRALTY

At a conference at the Admiralty it was stated that 200 sets of recording and playback equipment including high quality microphones and loudspeakers were being ordered immediately. A preliminary order was also being placed for 150,000 double-sided discs and 200,000 cutters. It will be impossible to assemble this equipment in the Research Branch and the Priority Section have been asked to press the Ministry of Labour for 12 extra hands at the Colnbrook and Wraysbury factories of the M.S.S. Recording Company for this purpose.