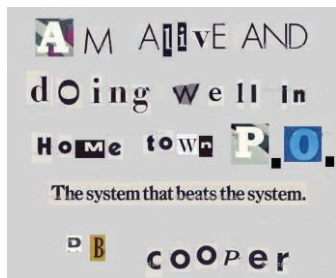


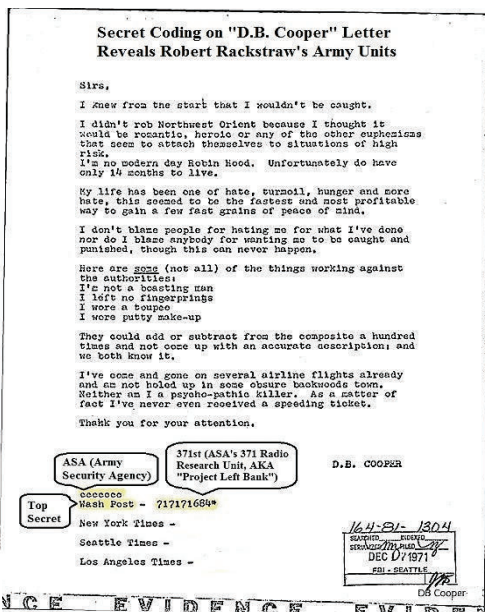
# DECODING THE SIX "D.B. COOPER" MESSAGES



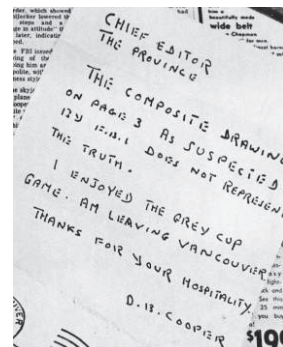
1



3



5



2



4

Analyst Sherwood used the "Alpha-Numerical" code (A=1, B=2, etc.):

**Letter #1) A:** "Thanks For Hospitality" = 20+6+8+9+20+25 = 88; "Can FBI Catch Me" = 18+17+35+18 = 88

Sherwood noted: "The cut-and-pasted 'ity' (in Hospital) was bolded and looked different, so I decided to count all three. I then spotted several words sideways (below) and I knew that was a separate message."

**B:** "Attention! Was In ARut. D.B. Cooper" = 1+23+9+1+18+4+2+3 = 61; SWS = 19+23+19 = 61 (SWS is Ft. Bragg's Special Warfare School where Green Berets taught Rackstraw coding)

**Letter #2) A:** "I Enjoyed The Grey Cup Game. Am Leaving Vancouver" = 9+5+20+7+3+7+1+12+22 = 86; "If Catch I Am CIA" = 15+35+9+14+13 = 86

**B:** Thanks For Your Hospitality" = 20+6+25+8 = 59; RWR = 18+23+18 = 59 (Robert W. Rackstraw)

**Letter #3) "Am Alive And Doing Well In Home Town P.O.... D.B. Cooper"** (All cut from June 1970 Playboy)

Sherwood noted: "In a language of few words, there were too many in this one. But because he painstakingly cut and pasted every letter in the words individually, I assumed it was a code within a code. I tried subtracting made-up words that would bring down the letter count and reveal the cypher. On my second attempt, I took out letters from the first/last name of Playboy Playmate Elaine Morton. That left 27, then bingo! There it was:

Name Removed: "Am Alive And Doing Well In Home Town P.O.... D.B. Cooper"; it left 27 letters: AALIVNDGWINHOMEOWPDBCOOPE = 27 = "I HAVE POB AND CODE WILL GO DOWN PM"

**Letter #4) "Plan Ahead For Retirement Income"** = 16+1+6+18+9 = 50; NGJS = 14+7+10+19 = 50 (NGJS is at Ft. Benning where "National Guardsman Rackstraw went to Jump School in 1967)

**Letter #5) A:** Los Angeles Times - "7698QA2753": 47+Q/17+A/1 = 65; 11<sup>th</sup> GS = 11+T/20+H/8+G/7+S/19 = 65 (Times code was found in archive; "11<sup>th</sup> General Support" was 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's chopper repair & VIP's taxi ride)

**B:** Washington Post - "CCCCCC": C/3 X 7 = 21; ASA = A/1+S/19+A/1 = 21 (Army Security Agency)

**C:** "Wash Post" = W/23+A/1+S/19+H/8+P/16+O/15+S/19+T/10 = 121; Top Secret = T/20+O/15+P/16+S/19+E/5+C/3+R/18+E/5+T/20 = 121

Sherwood noted: "I saw this paper's title was the only shortened one of four cc'd, and it was between two secret units. Once I uncovered the "Wash Post" & "Top Secret" had matching totals, I plugged it in."

**D:** "717171684\*": 42 + \* (if \* is 8) = 50; 371<sup>st</sup> = 11+S/19+T/20 = 50

Sherwood noted: He saw "three 71s" as a hint to the unit he and Rackstraw shared, ASA's 371<sup>st</sup> Radio Research Unit / "Project Left Bank" (Bunkered Sherwood was air-traffic NCO for hunting pilot "Rack")

## Letter #6

March 28, 1972

The Portland Oregonian Newspaper  
Portland, Oregon

Gentlemen:

This letter is to let you know I am not dead but really alive and just back from the Bahamas, so your silly troopers up there can stop looking for me. That is just how dumb this government is. I like your articles about me but you can stop them now. D. B. Cooper is not real.

I had to do something with the experience Uncle taught me, so here I am, a very rich man. Uncle gave too much of it to world idiots and no work for me. I had to do it to relieve myself of frustration. I want out of the system and saw a way through good ole Unk. Now you know. I am going around the world and they will never find me because I am smarter than the system's lackey cops and lame duck leaders. Now it is Uncle's turn to weep and pay one of it's own some cash for a change. (And please tell the lackey cops D. B. Cooper is not my real name).

Sincerely, A Rich Man

Code-Breaker Rick Sherwood spotted 4 phrases or words that repeat: 1) "D.B. Cooper is not real"; 2) "Uncle" or "Unk" (AKA Uncle Sam); 3) "the system"; and 4) "lackey cops."

**#1 & #4 are in this highlighted sentence:**

"And please tell the lackey cops D.B. Cooper is not my real name."

"I am 1st LT Robert Rackstraw, D.B. Cooper is not my real name."  
(Concealed message decoded)

"And(19+) please(58+) tell(49+) the(33+) lackey(57+) cops(53)" = 269

"I(9+) am(14+) 1st(40+) LT(32+) Robert(60+) Rackstraw(114)" = 269

**#2 & #3 are in this highlighted sentence:**

"I want out of the system and saw a way through good ole Unk."

I want out of the system and saw a way by skyjacking a jet plane."  
(Hidden message decoded)

"...through(97+) good(41+) ole(32+) Unk(46)." = 216

"...by(27+) skyjacking(110+) a(1+) jet(30+) plane(48)." = 216

Rackstraw's Vietnam commander, LTC Ken Overturf (ret.), stated: "With the 'Basic Cryptography' Army manual now in my possession, we have doctrinal validation of the process Rick Sherwood used to decipher all the messages."

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