



ENIGMA



Why all the secrecy?

During the Second World War, Germany's Army, Air Force and Navy transmitted many thousands of coded messages to each other every day

These messages were coded using Enigma

If the coded messages could be deciphered, Britain and her allies would have an advantage over their enemy

The faster the messages could be deciphered, the fresher the information that they contained and the better prepared the Allied Forces could be

How did it work?

An operator typed in a message

The message was then scrambled by three to five notched wheels which displayed different letters of the alphabet

The receiver needed to know the exact settings of these rotors to make the coded text readable (to decipher it)

WHAT IS ENIGMA?

A cipher machine used by the Germans to code secret messages in World War II

British code breakers cracked the code and could decipher the Nazi's secret messages

The information they deciphered helped the Allied Forces defeat Germany in 1945

D-Day Landings

Breaking the code and knowing Germany's plans in advance helped prepare for the D-Day landings in 1944

It allowed Britain to confuse Hitler over where The Allies were planning to land
Hitler's decision to move troops away from the Normandy beaches made sure the invasions were a success and helped win the war

Battle of the Atlantic

Code breaking was essential in winning the Battle of the Atlantic were German U-boats were preying on ships carrying essential supplies for Britain

Convoys of supply ships were setting out from North America, but the U-boats' torpedoes were sinking so many of the ships that it was predicted Britain would soon be starving
"The only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril," Churchill later said

Thanks to the code breakers, U-boat communications were cracked and, when they revealed where they were, the convoys could avoid them

Replia of The Bombe
National Code Centre
Bletchley Park

