

Description: Two letters from General Eisenhower to Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General George C. Marshall, dated May 3, 1944 and May 4, 1944.

General Eisenhower had ordered all units under his command to maintain the highest standard of security discipline, and that severe disciplinary actions be taken in the case of any violations.

This order was tested when one of Eisenhower's West Point classmates, now also a general and the commander of the IX Air Force Service declared— in the presence of a number of guests in a public hotel dining room—that the invasion would begin before June 15th. Upon validating these details, Eisenhower ordered that his friend, Major General Henry J.F. Miller, be removed from his post, reduced to a colonel, and sent back to the United States.

Obtained from page 75 of this book:

Rawson, Andrew. Eyes Only: The Top Secret Correspondence Between  
Marshall and Eisenhower. Gloucestershire, UK: Spellmount, 2012.

**EYES ONLY**

THE TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN  
**MARSHALL AND EISENHOWER**

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2012

INCOMING MESSAGE  
Andrew Rawson



**EYES ONLY**

The Top Secret  
Correspondence  
Between

**MARSHALL  
and  
EISENHOWER**

COPY NO

## MAY 1944

### *A Serious Security Violation*

*Eisenhower to Marshall*

3 May

Ref: E-26153

In the public dining room of Claridges Hotel<sup>1</sup> on 18 April, in the presence and hearing of persons who neither knew, nor were entitled to know, operational plans, Major General Henry J. E. Miller, Air Corps,<sup>2</sup> made statements regarding future operations that constitute such a critically serious violation of security as to make it imperative that exemplary action be taken here, both for punitive reasons and as a deterrent.<sup>3</sup> Judge Advocate<sup>4</sup> considers that the evidence, while clear, is not of a character to warrant punishment by a court martial more severe than can be given administratively. Request you give me the authority of the President to demote him at once to his permanent Regular Army rank of colonel and return him to United States. Such action is supported by conclusions of Inspector General<sup>5</sup> and is concurred in by Spaatz.

*Eisenhower to Marshall*

4 May

Ref: W-31941

Authority is granted to reduce Major General Henry J. E. Miller, Army Air Corps, to his permanent Army rank and return him to the United States without delay by direction of the President. Forward complete report to Inspector General on the case.<sup>6</sup>

### *The President's Congratulations*

*Marshall to Eisenhower*

5 May

Ref: W-32154

The President has not yet made a definite decision as to the advisability of making an announcement reference your S-50861 dated 28 April. However, if it should appear desirable to make such an announcement, he has informed me that it would be as follows:

"A landing on the coast of France has been made in full force by a combined American-British Army under the command of General Eisenhower. Speaking for America, I

1 Brook Street, Mayfair, London.

2 Miller was commander of Air Material Command European Theater of Operations; he retired in May 1944.

3 While telling guests about how difficult it was to get crucial supplies, Miller was quoted as saying: "On my honor the invasion will come before June 15." An alternative version has Miller complaining to a nurse that some important items would not reach the UK until 15 June, well after the invasion.

4 The Judge Advocate was the US Army's legal advisor, dealing with all aspects of law and served as prosecutor during courts-martials.

5 The Inspector General was principally charged with making sure that units were ready for combat, acting as a third party inspector. However, in this case he was charged with his secondary role, the investigation of non-criminal allegations.

6 Eisenhower ordered an immediate investigation and then reduced Miller to his permanent rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and gave him 24 hours to leave the UK.