

MysteryTwister C3

THE CRYPTO CHALLENGE CONTEST

LETTER TO THE TEMPLARS – PART 1

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Fictional Introduction

In 1118, the Order of the Templar, a very powerful military order, was founded. The knights wore a white mantle with a red cross on it. During the crusades, the order offered support and protection to the crusaders, and thereby, became very rich. Because of the success, there were a lot of imitators, e.g. the Order of Saint John, but also enviers. In 1307, about 200 years after the foundation, the order was crushed out of greed. A friend of Jacques de Molay, the Grand Master of that time, tried to warn the knights with an encrypted letter. He used three different keys that were sent with a different messenger.

Unfortunately, only the encrypted text arrived and the Templars did not pay much attention to the strange message. Therefore, they were caught off guard by the large wave of arrests on Friday, 13th October 1307. On 18th March 1314, the last Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, was burnt on the stake in Paris.

Encryption Method

The letter consists of three parts. This challenge is about the first part. The key that has been used consists of two digits.

At first, all spaces are removed from the text. Afterwards, the message are separated into blocks of the same length as the key. In this case, they are two characters long. Finally, each block is encrypted separately.

Example:

The plaintext is “knight”. After it is divided into blocks of two characters, it results in “kn ig ht”. In this example, the key is 21. This means that the first letter is moved to the second position and vice versa. Therefore, the message is “nk gi th” afterwards. So the ciphertext is “nkgith”.

Challenge

You can find the ciphertext in the file
mtc3-esslinger-15-cipher-en.txt.

The letter was written in English. To solve the challenge, please enter the three cities, that are mentioned in one sentence. Use only capital letters and separate the names only by commas.