

MysteryTwister C3

THE CRYPTO CHALLENGE CONTEST

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD MURDER CASE

HOMICIDE VICTIM FOUND WITH ENCRYPTED NOTES IN HIS POCKETS

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Background

On June 30, 1999, a dead body was found in a field near West Alton, Missouri, which was later identified as Ricky McCormick, 41 years old.

Even though police couldn't find any wounds on the decomposing body and the cause of death is unknown till today, they believe that McCormick was victim of a homicide. This is not only supported by the presence of his corpse 30 miles away from his home - though he didn't own a car nor is this region served by public transportation - but also by what was found in the pockets of his pants:

Background

Two notes containing more than 30 lines of encrypted text.
According to the investigators, they have been written in the last three days before his death.



Figure: Ricky McCormick

Background

According to his mother, Ricky had already been writing cipher texts as a child, but she doesn't know how to decrypt them. Experts of the *Cryptanalysis and Racketeering Records Unit* (CRRU), a division of the FBI specialized in cryptanalysis, and the *American Cryptogram Association*, a group of American amateur cryptologists, are equally clueless. Twelve years after the homicide, the FBI therefore asks the public for help by publishing the notes on its website.

McCormick's death may also be related to his chronic heart and lung diseases, he suffered from. Dan Olson, the chief of CRRU, pointed out that there is also a possibility that the notes are just a „grocery list or a love letter“.

Challenge

Can you help the FBI solve an open case?

On the following two pages you can find the two found notes and transcriptions of those.

Information concerning the notes can be sent to the FBI online at:

<http://forms.fbi.gov/code>

You can also discuss your solutions in the forum here or with the author of this MTC3 challenge.

(P1)

(MND MKNEARSE-N-S-M-KNARE) (A(SM))
TFRHENPINSENPBSERCBBNSE NPRSE INC
PRSE N MRSE DPRE HLDWLDNCBE(TFXLF TCXL N CBE)
AL-PRPPIT XLYPPY N CBE MGKSEWCDRCBRNSEPRSE
WLDRCBRNSE N T SSHEHTXSE-CRSL-CLTRSEWLDNCBE
ALWLDNCBETSME LRSE RLSE URGLSNE AS N WLD N CBE
(NOPFSE NLSRE NCBE) NTEGDDMNSEN CURECBBNE
(TENE TFRNE NCBRTSE N CBE INC)
(FLRSE PRSE ONDE71 NCBE)
(CDNSE PRSE ONSDE74 NCBE)
(PRTSE PRSE ON REDE 75 NCBE)
(TF NQCMSP SOLE MRDE LUSE TOTE WLD N WLDNCBE)
(194 WLD'S NCBE) (TRFXL)

(MND MKNEARSE-N-S-M-KNARE) (A(SM))
TFRHENPINSENPBSERCBBNSE NPRSE INC
PRSE N MRSE DPRE HLDWLDNCBE(TFXLF TCXL N CBE)
AL-PRPPIT XLYPPY N CBE MGKSEWCDRCBRNSEPRSE
WLDRCBRNSE N T SSHEHTXSE-CRSL-CLTRSEWLDNCBE
ALWLDNCBETSME LRSE RLSE URGLSNE AS N WLD N CBE
(NOPFSE NLSRE NCBE) NTEGDDMNSEN CURECBBNE
(TENE TFRNE NCBRTSE N CBE INC)
(FLRSE PQSE ONDE71 NCBE)
(CDNSE PRSE ONSDE74 NCBE)
(PRTSE PRSE ON REDE 75 NCBE)
(TF NQCMSP SOLE MRDE LUSE TOTE WLD N WLDNCBE)
(194 WLD'S NCBE) (TRFXL)

NOTES

ALPNTE GLSE-SE ERTE
VLSE MTSE-CTSE-WSE-FRTSE
PNRTRSE ONDRSEWLD NCBE
NWLDZLRCMSPNEWLDSTSMEXL
DULMT6TUNSE NCBEXC

(MUNSAISTENMUNARSE)
KLSE-LRSTE-TRSE-TRSE-MKSEN-MRSE
(SAE6NSE SE NMBSE)
NMNRCBRNSEPTE2PTEWSREBKNS
26MLSE74SPRKSE29KENOSOLE173RTRSE
356LE CLGSEOUNUTKEDKRSE PSESHLE
651MTCSEHTLSENCUTCTRS NMRE
99.84.5 5UNEPLSENCRSEADLTSENSKSENBSE
NSREONSE PVTSEWLDNCBE (3XORL)
NMSSENREIN2NTRLERCBRNSENTSRCRBNE
LSPNSENSESPSEMKSEKBSEPCBEAVXL'R
HMCRENMRFCBE 1/2MUNDPLSE
D-W-M-4HIL XDR LX

ALPNTE GLSE-SE ERTE
VLSE MTSE-CTSE-WSE-FRTSE
PNRTRSE ONDRSEWLD NCBE
NWLDZLRCMSPNEWLDSTSMEXL
DULMT6TUNSE NCBEXC

(MUNSAISTENMUNARSE)
KLSE-LRSTE-TRSE-TRSE-MKSEN-MRSE
(SAE6NSE SE NMBSE)

NMNRCBRNSEPTE2PTEWSREBKNS
26MLSE74SPRKSE29KENOSOLE173RTRSE
356LE CLGSEOUNUTKEDKRSE PSESHLE
651MTCSEHTLSENCUTCTRS NMRE
99.84.5 5UNEPLSENCRSEADLTSENSKSENBSE
NSREONSE PVTSEWLDNCBE (3XORL)
NMSSENREIN2NTRLERCBRNSENTSRCRBNE
LSPNSENSESPSEMKSEKBSEPCBEAVXL'R
HMCRENMRFCBE 1/2MUNDPLSE
D-W-M-4HIL XDR LX

Sources & Information

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