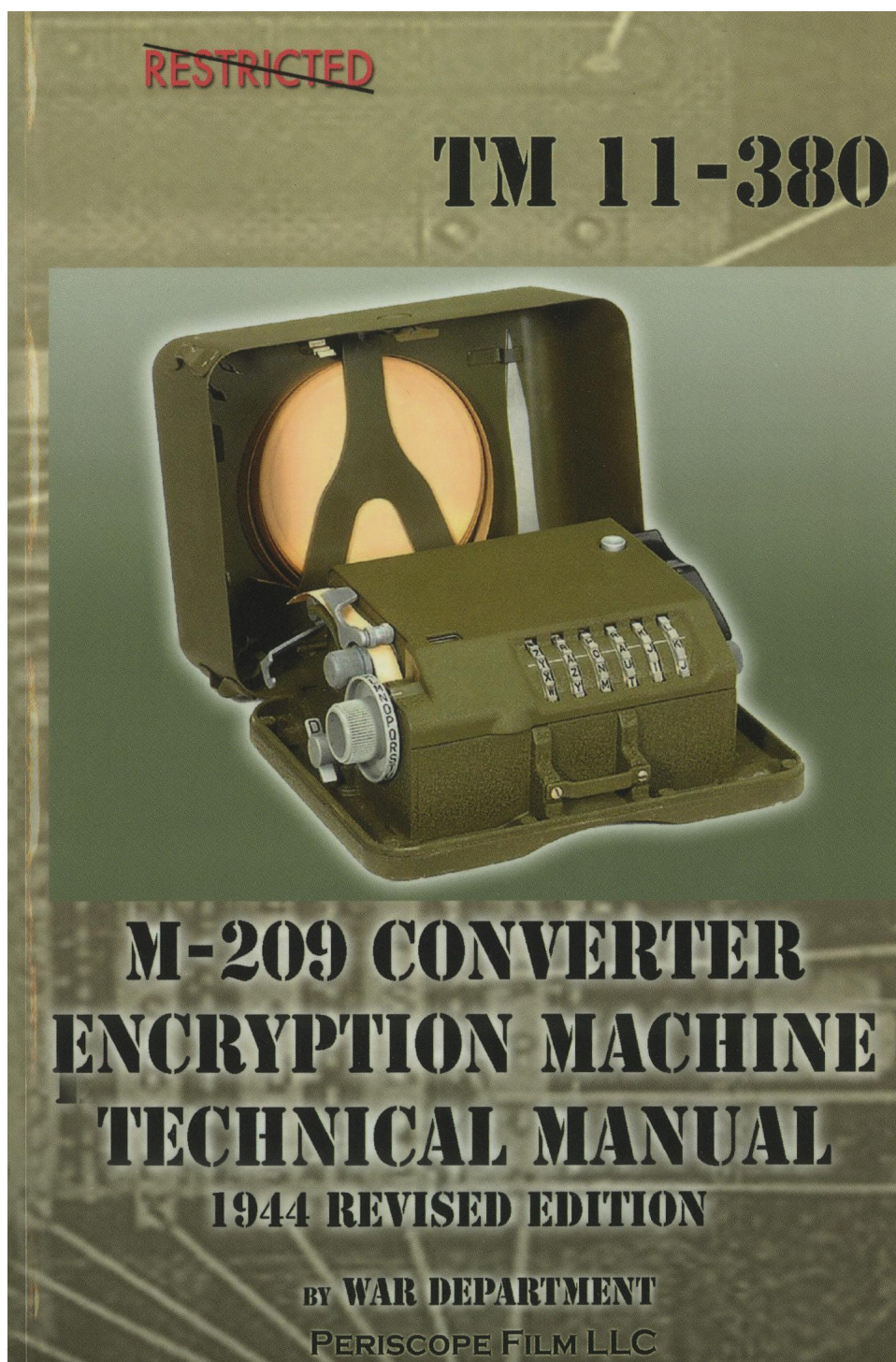


Association des Anciens Combattants
Services de Renseignement de France et des Pays Alliés

<< EX-INVISIBLES (A.C.S.R.) >>

manuel de la M-209
collection Daniel TANT

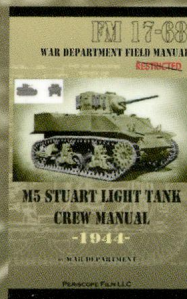
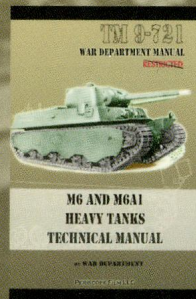


Designed by Swedish cryptographer Boris Hagelin, the M-209 Converter was a portable, mechanical cipher machine. Used extensively during WWII and the Korean conflict by both the Army Signal Corps and the U.S. Navy (which designated it the CSP-1500), Hagelin's device allowed a rapid and secure means of communication. The lunchbox-sized machine was so simple that little training was required to use it, yet its cipher scheme proved very difficult – but not impossible – for the Germans to crack.

The M-209's elegant design uses six adjustable key wheels or rotors to produce a reciprocal substitution – also known as a Beaufort cipher. The effect was that of sliding a normal alphabet sequence against the same sequence reversed, with a high degree of irregularity in the shifting process brought about by a train of gears. In the train of gears, the number of teeth on the driving number was also varied by the use of keying elements.

Prepared by the War Department for the Signal Corps and other users, this M-209 technical manual was originally restricted, but is now considered declassified. It describes the operation and care of this fascinating device. This revised edition was originally printed in 1944 and contains several sections not found in earlier versions, including maintenance and parts information. It provides a fascinating glimpse into mid-level encryption technology circa 1944.

Cover photo courtesy of Fred Plasma.



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ISBN 9781937684693



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