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Process Paper

The topic of communication in history has provided me with an opportunity to explore an idea that has been in the back of my mind, but never researched in-depth. I have always been very passionate about learning about World War II, and have acquired great knowledge about the battles, battleships, aircrafts, to name a few, but I never explored the tools of communication. Therefore, I planned to develop a research website on The Enigma and decided to expand my knowledge about the communication methods used during World War II.

I conducted my research on several websites, databases, books, and various other sources. My sources included both primary and secondary sources. One of my primary sources is direct notes from Alan Turing on how he cracked the Enigma code and designed the Bombe, a machine that could repeatedly crack the Enigma code. Some other primary sources are presented as real images of the Bombe machine and images of where the codebreakers worked and built the Bombe Machine.

I selected the website as my category to present my research. This category was an obvious choice for me, because I had previously done my NHD project as a website. Having a large 1,200 word limit allowed me to explain my topic more thoroughly and with greater clarification. At first, I gathered my notes and worked on an outline with the information at hand. The experience from last year helped me vastly with the website builder other than learning a few new features that were added recently. Once the content was drafted, then the next step was finalizing the layout and organization of the website.

My historical argument is: "The Enigma machine was one of the most influential machines during World War II. Cracking the code was vital for winning the war." The Enigma machine allowed the Germans to communicate in complete secrecy for the majority of the early part of the war. Breaking the code allowed the British and American forces to foresee the German strategies. These advantages were key to winning the war with a decreased number of losses to allied forces.

The Enigma machine had a major impact on World War II. Breaking the Enigma code was essential for the allied forces in winning the war. If the Enigma code had never been cracked, the allied forces would have lost millions of more lives, due to the lack of German strategy information ahead of time. Alan Turing's Bombe machine saved approximately 1 to 2 million lives and shortened the war by about 2-3 years.