

First-Generation Computer

During World War II the British government was trying to decode German military messages. A team of Code-Crackers working in secret had only pencil and paper to try and find possible code settings.

Max Newman was Team Leader and was given the task of solving the Germans newest encryption device, the Lorenz - S Z. The work was slow, exhausting and often inaccurate. The British government called on Thomas H. Flowers, an English engineer formally from the Post Office, to come up with a device that could be used to break the German code.

Thomas arrived at Buckinghamshire England, the headquarters of the Code - Crackers. Between 1943 to 1945 the Government worked on what was called Colossus. This first-generation computer filled a room, its size earned its name. Behind the scenes, a team of code-crackers worked anonymously. It was done that way so German spies couldn't find out who they were. Among these people were Jack Long and his wife Rebecca.

Jack was born to a Stavrosian family - Papalas. Rebecca was born to a Stavrosian family - Moraitis. They met at the London First Life Celebration in 1935. Their known families were happy with the marriage. The marriage certificate has them as Jack and Rebecca Long. Each were educated in London, they worked for the government as bilingual and voice recognition translations. Jack had spent a few years working on Stavrosian translating equipment. He and a few others were trying to recreate this Stavrosian technology to introduce it into present British engineering. It was proven to be essential for code-cracking.

Jack took apart the solid-state components of his Stavrosian device in order to reengineer them with what was available on Earth. Although the Stavrosians had a different name for it, this device was, for all intent and purposes, a computer. The available materials consisted of raw metals, some compressed gases and high temperature glass for making vacuum tubes. Jack's challenge was to work with limited resources to compose the necessary parts for a basic calculator that could do the job required by the British.

Thomas H. Flowers was not readily accessible to a common worker. Jack and Rebecca couldn't get to the Chief Engineer. So together they would feed information to Team Leader Max Newman, by use of both spoken words and with mind thought transfer. Newman must have thought he was having a daily epiphany. This way Jack could get the specifications for the new type of vacuum tube needed to make Colossus work.

Thomas thought Max was a genius. Thomas presented the work in a demonstration to the government that Colossus was a working success. Thomas won many accolades as the engineer that invented the world's first working computer. It

worked so well that often the British would have a German message decoded before it was received by its intended personnel.

When the war ended, Jack and Rebecca moved to Australia. They ran a small but somewhat successful radio and T.V. repair business. Jack died in 2005 at 98 years old. Rebecca moved back to England in 2006, she died in 2010 at 103 years old. Their contribution to the British war effort and indeed to the world will never be told in history. However, the two are honored in memory by Stavrosian families at each First Life Celebration in both London and Sydney. It has never been spoken of outside the Stavrosian community. It's the way we do things.

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