

PHILIPPA WARR

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## Canadian researcher cracks WWII pigeon code



SAVE THIS STORY

**A CODED WORLD** War II message found attached to the remains of a pigeon up a chimney in Bletchingley, Surrey may have been cracked by a Canadian enthusiastic amateur.

Using a code from World War I, the *Telegraph* reports that Gord Young of Peterborough, Ontario was able to decrypt the note in under 17 minutes.

GCHQ -- the UK intelligence service which was responsible for codes and codebreaking during World War II -- has not confirmed the plaintext as correct but is willing to take a look at the proposed solution. "We stand by our statement of 22 November 2012 that without access to the relevant codebooks and details of any additional encryption used, the message will remain impossible to decrypt,"

and reads:

AOAKN HVPKD FNFJW YIDDC RQXSR DJHFP GOVFN MIAPX PABUZ WYYPN  
CMPNW HJRZH NLXKG MEMKK ONOIB AKEEQ WAOTA RBQRH DJOFM TPZEH  
LKXGH RGGHT JRZCQ FNKTQ KLDTS FQIRW AOAKN 27 1525/6

According to Young the message was written by Sergeant William Stott of the Lancashire Fusiliers who was parachuted into Normandy to report on German positions.

Rather than make use of a fiendish coding system, Young says the note is largely composed of acronyms. "It's not complex," he added.

As it currently stands, the plaintext is thought to read: "Artillery observer at 'K' Sector, Normandy. Requested headquarters supplement report. Panzer attack -- blitz. West Artillery Observer Tracking Attack. "Lt Knows extra guns are here. Know where local dispatch station is. Determined where Jerry's headquarters front posts. Right battery headquarters right here. "Found headquarters infantry right here. Final note, confirming, found Jerry's whereabouts. Go over field notes. Counter measures against Panzers not working. "Jerry's right battery central headquarters here. Artillery observer at 'K' sector Normandy. Mortar, infantry attack panzers. "Hit Jerry's Right or Reserve Battery Here. Already know electrical engineers headquarters. Troops, panzers, batteries, engineers, here. Final note known to headquarters."

*Image: Shutterstock*

*This article was originally published by WIRED UK*





## The Physics Behind the Quadruple Axel, the Most Difficult Jump in Figure Skating

Are you speechless watching US figure skater Ilia Malinin on the ice? Science explains how it's possible the Quad God can do more than four full rotations in the air.

MARTA MUSSO



## KFK Jr. Says Americans Need More Protein. His Grok-Powered Food Website Disagrees

The site Realfood.gov uses Elon Musk's Grok chatbot to dispense nutrition information—some of which contradicts the government's new guidelines.

EMILY MULLIN



## Palantir CEO Alex Karp Recorded a Video About ICE for His Employees

In a video shared with Palantir employees, Alex Karp did not explain how ICE is utilizing the company's products. Instead, workers were told they can sign NDAs if they want detailed information.

MAKENA KELLY





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BRAD BOURQUE



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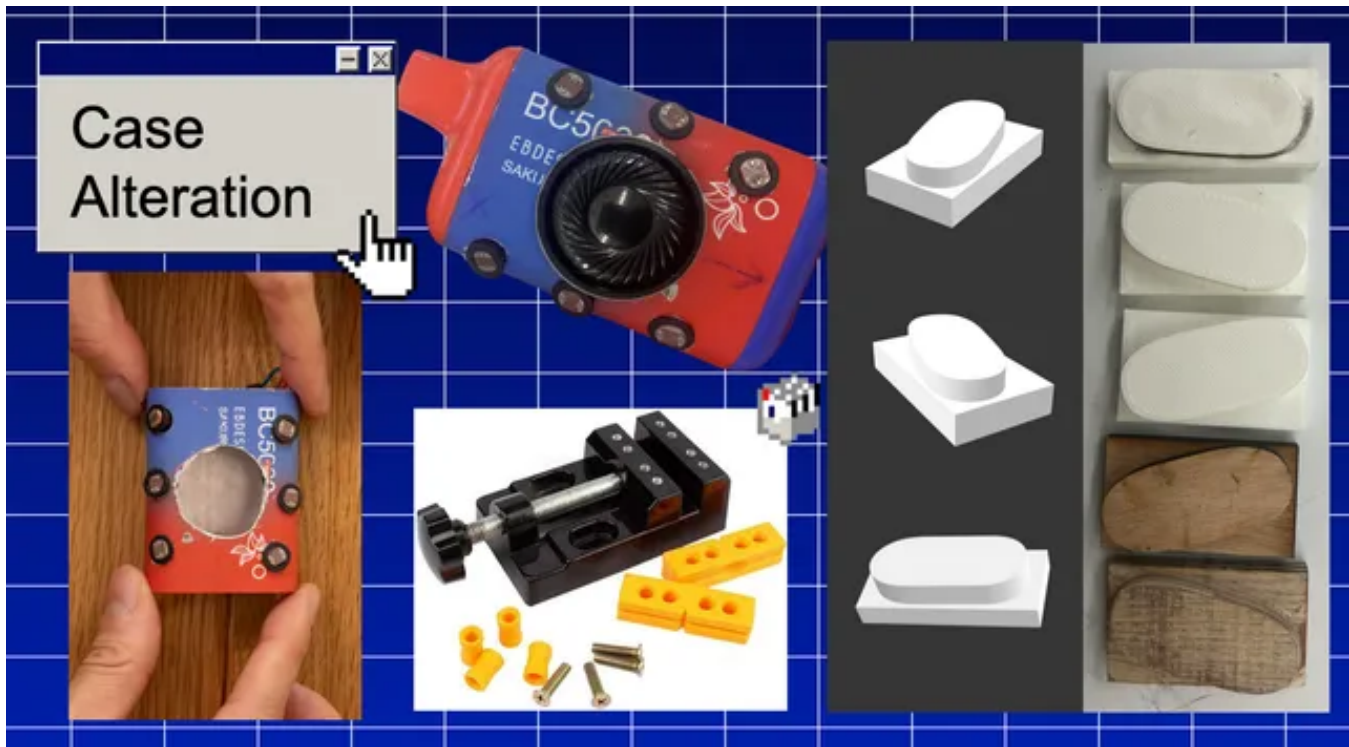


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Bidets are extremely common in northern Italy, where the Milano Cortina Games are being played. They're less familiar to the people visiting.

PAOLO ARMELLI





## These Hackers Are Turning Dead Vapes Into Musical Synthesizers

Instead of throwing that spent Elf Bar nicotine vape into the trash, you can pull most of the guts out, plug in a circuit board and some controls, then suck on the mouthpiece to play digital sounds.

BOONE ASHWORTH

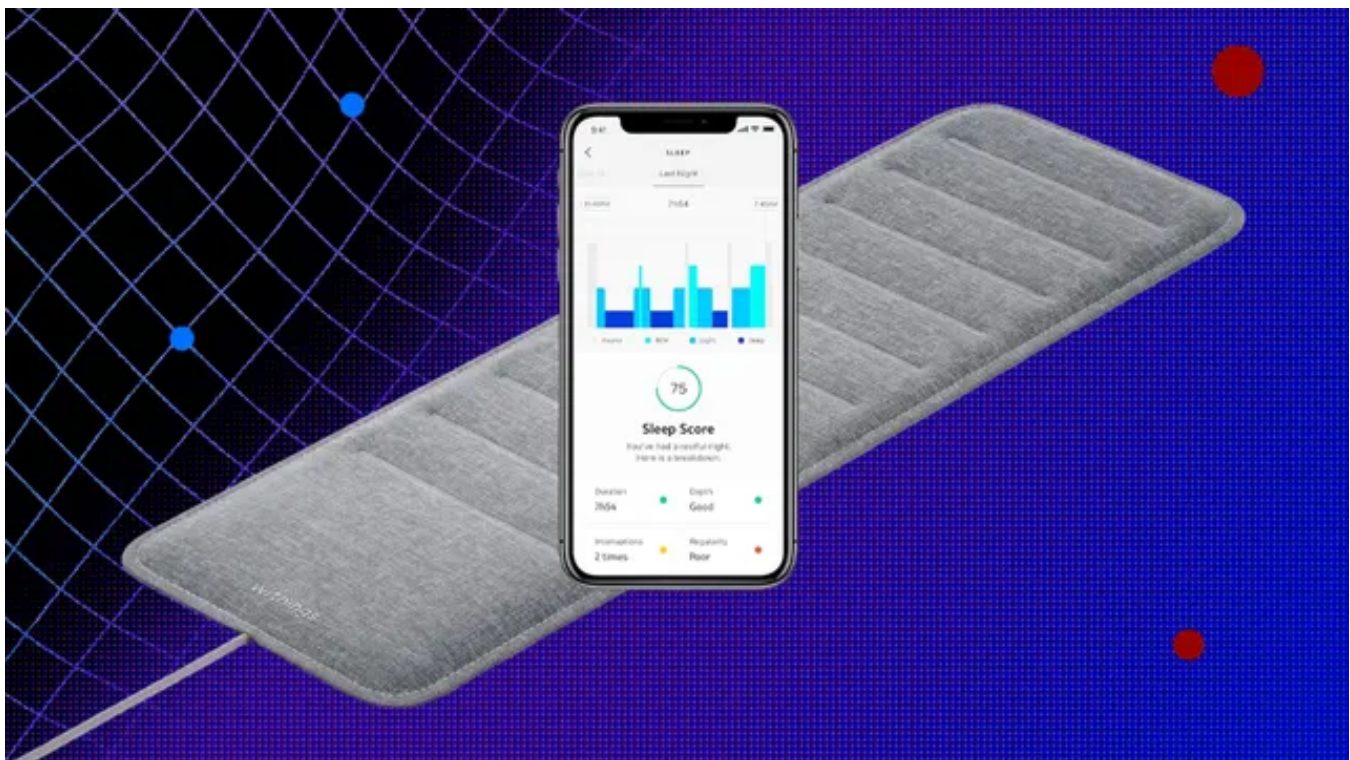




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