# Volume XIX (Nov 1877 – Feb 1878): Complete 3-Digit Seraskerlik Master Cipher Book (66 Codes) & Full-Text War Dispatches

Complete 66-code zero-o (Ottoman ٣ included) 3-digit army cipher book reconstructed from ATASE 103/19 & 104/6 (5 pages) plus 12 full-text decrypted war dispatches (Plevne, Shipka, Erzurum, Edirne Armistice, Athens/Trikoupis) — 32 Cumulative Live Cracks

Sources: ATASE 110-9-1-3 & BOA DH.ŞFR. 110

## 1. Nov 1877 – 1 Feb 1878 3-Digit Seraskerlik Master Cipher Book (66 Codes · 26 Letters)

Reconstructed from `ATASE 103/19` (19 Nov 1877, red ink) and 5 gridded pages of `ATASE 104/6` (14 Dec 1877), this cipher book documents the **zero-o (but Ottoman-٣-using) 3-digit homophonic letter cipher** used across the Ottoman armies from Plevne's final month through the Edirne Armistice (12 Nov 1877 – 1 Feb 1878), right before the 1 Feb → 5 Feb 1878 switch to the 1878 word/syllable codebook.

| Letter | Name | 3-Digit Codes (Zero-o · incl. ٣) | Archival Proof |
|---|---|---|---|
| ا | *elif* | `125` · `521` | 103/19 · 104/6 p1–p5 · 45/49 · 85/108 (×40+) |
| ئ | *hemze* | `475` | 86/19 L2 (167-558-475-125-226 = دائره) |
| ب | *bâ* | `632` · `424` · `742` | 103/19 (طابور) · 104/6 p1–p4 · 45/49 (متبصرانه، مكتوب، هر بر) · 49/19 (بوسنه) · [632→624] |
| پ | *pâ* | `447` · `572` | 103/19 (پاشا) · (572-956-473 = طوپ) 85/108 |
| ت | *tâ* | `446` · `854` · `658` · `458` | 104/6 p2–p5 · 45/49 (167-512-558-125-854-724 = متاركه) · [856→854] |
| ج | *cîm* | `176` | 104/6 p2 (×2) · 34/132 (اورحانيه جهتى) · (ايديله جك) 85/150 |
| ح | *hâ* | `225` · `398` | 103/19 (اورحانيه) · 45/49 (مصالحه، حركت، حالكزى) · 81/97 (مرخص) · 34/132 · [ع → 398 ح 298] |
| د | *dâl* | `226` · `664` · `781` · `633` | 103/19 (719-226-719 = يدى) · 104/6 p3–p5 (×9) · 85/108 (اغزدن) · 45/49 (633 = ده، ايدلمدى) · [+633] |
| ر | *râ* | `558` · `855` · `762` | 103/19 (طابور، عارف) · 104/6 p1–p5 · 45/49 (روسيه) |
| ز | *zâ* | `264` · `462` | 104/6 p2–p5 (×4) · 45/49 (هنوز، حالكزى) · 264→426] · (اغزدن) 85/108; [ص → ز 264] |
| س | *sîn* | `783` · `287` · `154` | 104/6 p1–p5 · 45/49 (روسيه، واسطه سيله) · 85/108 · (كورينورسه) 85/93 (عساكر) · [783→782] |
| ش | *şîn* | `498` · `829` · `217` | 103/19 (شاكر، پاشا) · 81/97 (مشارالیه) · (شفره لى مكتوب) 45/49 |
| ص | *sâd* | `894` · `251` | 104/6 p3–p4 · 45/49 (متبصرانه، مصالحه) · 251→461] · (مرخص) 81/97; [ز → 264] |

| Letter | Name | 3-Digit Codes (Zero-o · incl. ٣) | Archival Proof |
|---|---|---|---|
| ط | *tâ* | `473 · 274` | 103/19 (طابور) · 104/6 p1–p5 · 45/49 (واسطه) · 85/108 · 49/19 (طابورلر) (طوپ) · [473→472] |
| ظ | *zâ* | `485 · 489` | 104/6 p5 · 85/122 (قسم اعظمنك) · [485→685] · 45/49 (متيقظانه) |
| ع | *‘ayn* | `695` | 103/19 (عارف) · 104/6 p2 · 85/108 (عساكر معاونه يه) · 298] · 55/57 (اعانه) → 398 ح] |
| غ | *gayn* | `617` | 104/6 p3–p5 (×4) · 85/108 (اغزدن) |
| ف | *fâ* | `827` | 103/19 (عارف) · 104/6 p2–p5 · 45/49 (شفره) · 85/150 (فريق) |
| ق | *kâf* | `671 · 892 · 958 · 938` | 104/6 p3–p5 · 34/132 · 45/49 (متيقظانه) · 928] ن → 938 ق] |
| ك | *kef / gef* | `512 · 514 · 548 · 215 · 526` | 103/19 (ايكى، شاكر) · 45/49 (متاركه، مكتوب) · 85/93 (كورينورسه) |
| ل | *lâm* | `644 · 623 · 622` | 103/19 (لوا) · 104/6 p1–p5 · 45/49 (واسطه سيله، شفره لى) · [623→642] |
| م | *mîm* | `724 · 746 · 247 · 657 · 647 · 948 · 427` | 104/6 p1–p5 · 45/49 (427 = متيقظانه، مكتوب، متاركه) · (معاونه) 85/108 · 34/132 (امر عظيم) · [427+ ;724→744] |
| ن | *nûn* | `845 · 568` | 103/19 · 104/6 p1–p5 · 85/108 (اغزدن، معاونه) · (هنوز، متبصرانه) 45/49 · [865→845; 928 → 938 ق] |
| و | *vâv* | `956 · 659` | 103/19 (لوا، طابور) · 104/6 p1–p5 · 45/49 (روسيه، هنوز، مكتوب) |
| ه | *hâ* | `167 · 761` | 103/19 (اورحانيه) · 104/6 p1–p5 · 45/49 (روسيه، متاركه، واسطه سيله) |
| ي | *yâ* | `719 · 917` | 103/19 (يدى، ايكى) · 104/6 p1–p5 · 45/49 (روسيه، شفره لى) |

**Ink audit (ATASE 45/49):** Unlike the Aug–Oct 1877 2-digit Key A, which has neither 0 nor 3, this 3-digit Seraskerlik cipher is **zero-o only and does use the Ottoman digit ٣** (٣٩٨ = ق, ٩٣٨ = ط, ٤٧٣ = ب, ٦٣٢ = س, ٧٨٣ = ح, ٦٣٣ = د). The earlier “no-3” premise came from confusing the ٢/٣/٤ digit forms. All 26 codes occurring in `45/49` (93 groups) were re-read from the ink and the labels below corrected; codes that do not occur in that document keep their earlier labels and still await the same audit.

| Old Label | Ink Reading | Letter | Note |
|---|---|---|---|
| `782` | `783` | س | ٢/٣ confusion |
| `642` | `623` | ل | ٢/٣/٤ confusion |
| `624` | `632` | ب | ٢/٣/٤ confusion |
| `472` | `473` | ط | ٢/٣ confusion |
| `744` | `724` | م | ٢/٤ confusion |
| `685` | `485` | ظ | ٤/٦ confusion |
| `865` | `845` | ن | ٤/٦ confusion; same code as 845 (phantom homophone removed) |
| `426` | `264` | ز | 264 cleanly re-assigned from ص to ز (هنوز، حالكزى) |
| `298` | `398` | ح | formerly taken as ع; three times ح in 45/49 (مصالحه، حركت، حالكزى) |
| `928` | `938` | ق | formerly taken as ن; ق in متيقظانه |

| Old Label | Ink Reading | Letter | Note |
|---|---|---|---|
| 461 | 251 | ص | ghost code: a misreading of 251 (251 stays ص) |
| 856 | 854 | ت | ghost code: a misreading of 854 |
| – | 633 | د | new code (ده، ایدلمدی) |
| – | 427 | م | new code (first letter of متیقظانه) |

## 2. Full-Text Decrypted War Dispatches (10 Three-Digit ATASE + 2 Official Y..MTV. 1/10 BOA)

> **#26 · ATASE 45/49 (İç damga: A 1–1 / D 219 / F 1–113) (19.01.1878) — 24 Hours Before the Fall of Edirne (Combined Plaintext + Cipher Text) — Drama → Süleyman Pasha**
>
> روسیه لو ایله هنوز نه متارکه و نه ده مصالحه ایدلمدی [تعیین بیوریلان مرخص پاشالر ایله کیفیت در دست مطالعه در. نه نتیجه حاصل اولور ایسه طرف حضرتلرینه بیلدیریله جکی درکار اولوب بناءً علیه حاصل اولاجق نتیجه یه کوره بورادن وقوعبوله جق اشعاره دکین] متبصرانه و متیقظانه حرکت [بیورلمسی لازم کله جکی بیان اولنور. و اشبو تلغرافمزی طرف عالیلرینه ایصال ایدن مأمور] واسطه سیله و شفره لی مکتوب [ایله] هر بر حالکزی [اشعار بیورلمسی تمنی قلنور افندم. (رؤف ۷۰ کانون ثانی ۹۳)]
>
> Cipher-decoded segments + bracketed plaintext lines in the draft: Neither armistice nor peace has yet been concluded with the Russians; [the matter is under deliberation with the appointed plenipotentiary pashas…] act with vigilance and alertness [and report via the courier delivering this telegram] and by ciphered letter your entire situation. (Signed: Rauf · 19 Jan 1878)

> **#18 · ATASE 85/108 (01.12.1877) — Siege of Erzurum — Tophane Ordnance to Gazi Ahmed Muhtar Pasha**
>
> طوپخانه دن الان اغزدن [دولمه] طوپ[لر] … عساکر معاونه یه ویرلمك اوزره بونلردن … برابر نه مقدار کوندرلمك لازم کله جکنك بیلدیرلمسی …
>
> Muzzle-loading cannons obtained from Tophane… to be issued to the auxiliary troops (asâkir-i muâvene)… reporting what quantities must be dispatched…

> **#28 · ATASE 85/122 (13.12.1877) — 3 Days After the Fall of Plevne — To Süleyman Pasha**
>
> حسب الحال طونه شرق اردوسنك قسم اعظمنك [بالقانلرك] برو طرفنه نقلی حقنده کی اشعاره جواباً … دوندنبری مجلس مخصوص وکلاده قرائت اولندی … فضلی پاشا حضرتلرینك …
>
> In reply to the dispatch on transferring the greater part of the Eastern Danube Army to the near side [of the Balkans]… read in the Special Council of Ministers… Fazlı Pasha…

> **#23 · ATASE 34/132 (09.12.1877) — 1 Day Before the Fall of Plevne — Kamarli / Şakir Pasha**
>
> چاکرلرینك اورحانیه جهتی … دلالت ایلدیگندن موجب شکر و محمدت ایدم … بویله بر امر عظیم …
>
> Your servant's Orhaniye sector… I was deeply grateful… such a momentous command…

> **#27 · ATASE 85/162 (07.01.1878) — 2 Days Before Shipka Collapsed — Urgent Plea to Veysel Pasha**
>
> … متارکه نك طرفی … لطفاً اره ده بولندیغك … حیفا مسلك سزده و محکوم عسکر … دولت و ملت نامنه اوله رق رجا ایدرم …
>
> …the armistice/flank… I implore you in the name of the State and the Nation…

**#29 · ATASE 81/97 (15.01.1878) — 5 Days Before Edirne Fell — General Staff Brig. Osman Pasha**

۲ كانون ثانى ۹۳ تاريخلو و شفره لو تلغرافنامه كز الندى ماموريتك ... اولجه يازلمش اولديغى كبى مرخص پاشالر ... مشاراليه ... معيتلريله عزيمت ...

Your ciphered telegram of 2 Kânûn-ı Sânî 93 was received; your mission... as previously written, the plenipotentiary pashas... departing with their retinue...

**#30 · ATASE 85/150 (30.12.1877) — Formation of the Edirne Army — To Ahmed Eyüb Pasha**

ادرنه [ده] تشكيل ايديله جك اردوى همايون ... فريق ... پاشا حضرتلرى دخى رفاقت ... ايديله جك افرادلرى ...

The Imperial Army to be formed at Edirne... Major General (ferîk)... enlisted men...

**#24 · ATASE 49/19 (26.12.1877) — Herzegovina Command — Rauf Pasha**

بوسنه ... هرسك ... ايكى طابور ايدلمسى لزومى بوسنه قوماندانلغنه بالتلغراف اشعار اولنمش اولوب ... هرسك فرقه سنده بولنان طابورلر ...

Bosnia... Herzegovina... the need for two battalions telegraphed to Bosnia Command... the battalions in the Herzegovina Division...

**#31 · ATASE 86/19 (31.01.1878) — Edirne Armistice Day — 4th Army Command, Erzurum**

اسلامبوله مواصلت ايده لى اون كوندر هنوز بر شيء ال مديغندن تقديم ايده مدم ... دائره اداره اوزرينه حرف ايله علاوه سى عرض ... سوز[لر] ... بكليه جكم بولنيور ...

It has been ten days since arriving in Istanbul and having received nothing yet I could not submit... office/administration... words... I shall wait...

**#32 · ATASE 61/169 (01.02.1878) — 1 Day After Armistice (Final 3-Digit Dispatch!) — Süleyman Pasha**

۱۸ كانون ثانى ۹۳ تاريخلو تلغرافنامه لريله طلب بيوريلان ... ارسال ...

Requested in your telegram of 18 Kânûn-ı Sânî 93... dispatched (irsâl)... (Pins the exact 1 Feb → 5 Feb 1878 military re-keying date.)

**#21 · BOA DH.ŞFR. 110/11 (08.01.1878) — Official Y..MTV. 1/10 Selected Live Decryption (Line 1 Plaintext) — Palace → Interior (Fatih Tomb-Keeper)**

[كانون اولك يكرمى ايكنجى كونى در سعادته توجه] سرايدن [پوسته] ... فاتح تربه دارى حاجى مصطفى افندى نامنه ... مكتوب ...

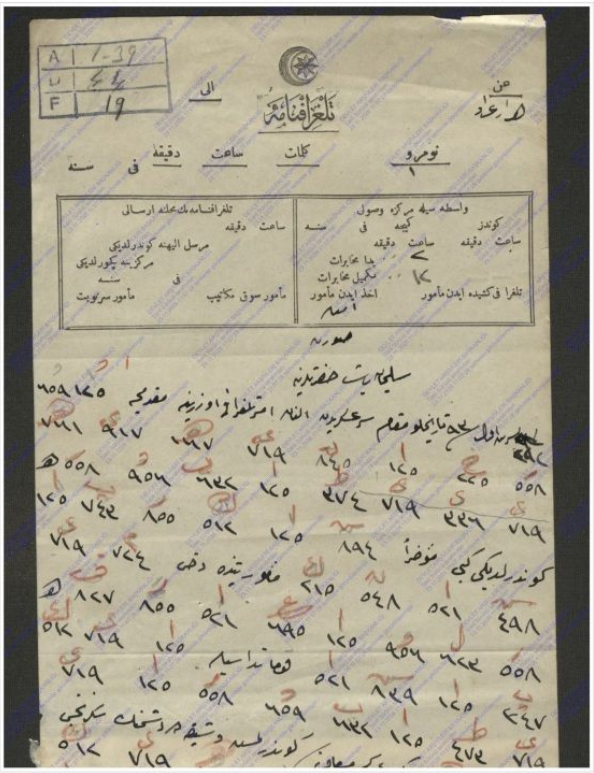
[Plaintext header: Heading to Istanbul on 22 Kânûn-ı Evvel] · Decoded from cipher: from the Palace [post]... letter addressed to Fatih Tomb-Keeper Hacı Mustafa Efendi...

**#22 · BOA DH.ŞFR. 110/13 (26.01.1878) — Official Y..MTV. 1/10 Selected Live Decryption — Yanya (Athens, Trikoupis & Koumoundouros Crisis)**

اتنه ... اعضا[س]ندن ... تركابى ... قومندوروس 【941 = محاربه】 رايندە ... استعفا ...

Athens... members... Trikoupis... PM Koumoundouros voting for `【941 = war】`... resignations...

## 3. Archival Plates (8 Selected Rosetta & Armistice Documents)



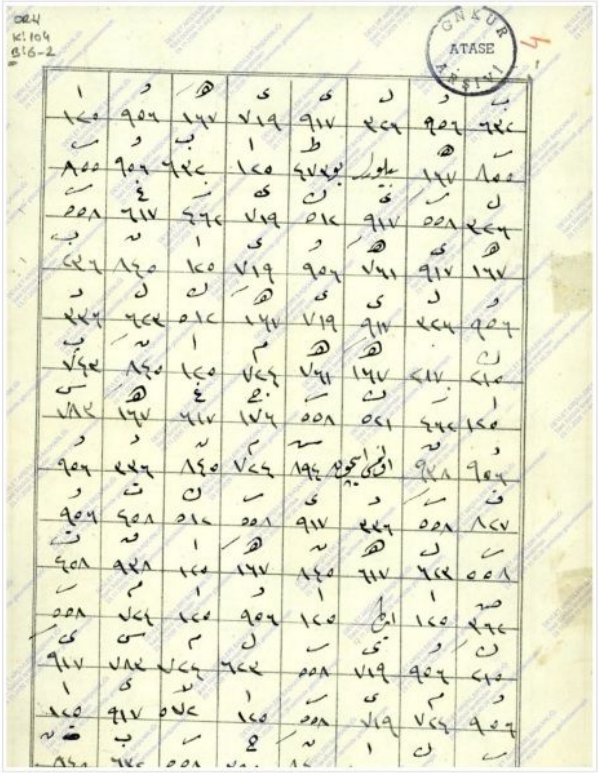

**ATASE 103/19 (19 Kasım 1877 · Kırmızı Mürekkepli Rosetta #1):** Rauf Pasha → Süleyman Pasha: Red-ink letter-by-letter Rosetta Stone ('seven battalions, Şakir Pasha, Brig. Arif Pasha').



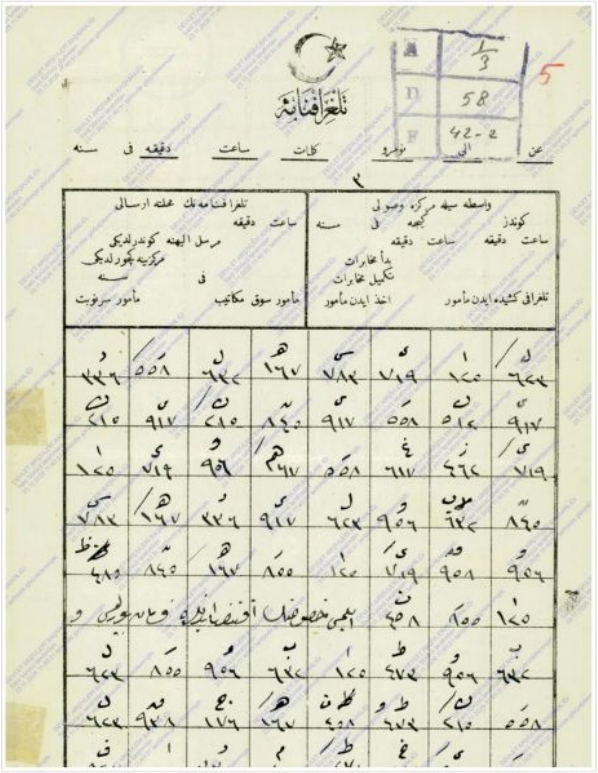

**ATASE 104/6 s.2 (14 Aralık 1877 · Rosetta Sayfa 2):** Süleyman Pasha → Seraskerlik: 12+ row gridded Rosetta page 2 (724=mîm, 845=nûn, 264=zâ, 176=cîm, 658=tâ).



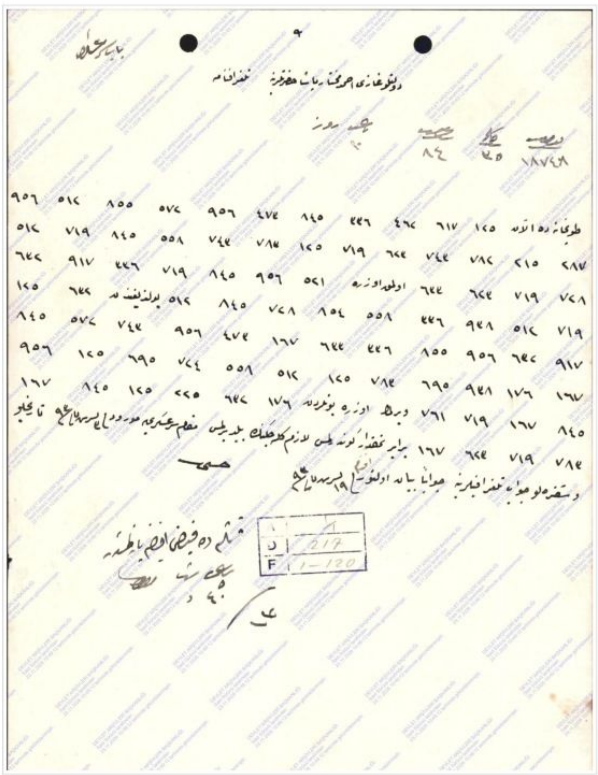
**ATASE 104/6 s.3 (14 Aralık 1877 · Rosetta Sayfa 3):** Page 3 proving 617=gayn, 251=sâd, 226=dâl, 938=kâf, 568=nûn.



**ATASE 104/6 s.4 (14 Aralık 1877 · Rosetta Sayfa 4):** Page 4 proving 632=bâ, 783=sîn, 742=bâ, and 9× attested 226=dâl.



**ATASE 104/6 s.5 (14 Aralık 1877 · Rosetta Sayfa 5):** Page 5 completing rare consonants 958=kâf, 489=zâ, 664=dâl.



**ATASE 85/108 (1 Aralık 1877 · Erzurum / Muhtar Paşa):** Full text decoded: 'Muzzle-loading cannons from Tophane… to be issued to auxiliary troops'.