

CASE NAME: STRATFORD UPON RAILS

ATTENDING OFFICER(S): JASON LUCAS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME LOCATION: WARNER THEATER



Answer: English Muffins

This puzzle has multiple layers.

The first thing that you need to do is figure out how to decode the cryptogram pieces in the bottom right part of every corner. The first encoding is that they are all Morse code, where lowercase letters are dots and uppercase are dashes. (For example, aA would be A, Aa would be N. The flavor text hints this by “Capital Miniscule” and “Daily Telegraph”.) If you decode them first in this Morse code, and read out the entire lines (ie, Train 47’s 7 segments in the top and the bottom, then 57’s, and so on), you get the following message:

A cryptogram that has no spaces
Is tough to solve, even for aces
To help unwind such mystery
It helps to find the crypto key
Of letters you’ll need twenty-six
Like those that follow in this mix
RCNUMWLXSPTYKFAGOEQVIDZJHB
Shakespeare ain’t here,
Bard’s lair elsewhere!

Using that as your crypto key – ie, R->A, C->B, N->C, etc, then you can decode the cryptogram again just using a straight cipher, and you’ll notice that you basically get 14 lines from Shakespeare sonnets and a cardinal number after each one. You’ll ALSO note that all the lines are from sonnets corresponding to the the 8 “Train” numbers – so if you note the ordinal number on each crypto line as an index into a word, and which sonnet each line comes from as the Train number, and then which line of the sonnet it is as a pointer to which which “Day” to look at on a 14-day schedule, you’ll get the following chart:

With my love’s picture then my eye doth feast (fourth, sonnet 47, line 5)
Say that thou didst forsake me for some fault (eighth, sonnet 89, line 1)
Better becomes the grey cheeks of the east (nineteenth, sonnet 132, line 6)
Speak of my lameness and I straight will halt (sixth, sonnet 89, line 3)
Some in their hawks and hounds, some in their horse (twelfth, sonnet 91, line 4)
And to his palate doth prepare the cup (sixth, sonnet 114, line 12)

Some in their wealth, some in their body's force (second, sonnet 91, line 2)
And my great mind, most kingly, drinks it up (fourth, sonnet 114, line 10)
When not to be receives reproach of being (sixth, sonnet 121, line 2)
Nor think the bitterness of absence sour (thirteenth, Sonnet 57, line 7)
Not by our feeling but by others seeing (fifth, sonnet 121, line 4)
Nor dare I chide the world without end hour (fourth, sonnet 57, line 5)
O, let me suffer being at your beck (eighth, sonnet 58, line 5)
And patience, tame to sufferance, bid each check. (fifth, sonnet 58, line 7)

Using these, you can go back to the original "train schedule" and get the appropriate letters and spell out the final answer, "ENGLISH MUFFINS".

(For example, the first letter is E because Train 47, Day 5 is Othello, and the 4th letter is E.)