Alan Turing

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Early life and education

Family

• Turing was born in Maida Vale, London, while his father, Julius Mathison Turing (1873–1947), was on leave from his position with the Indian Civil Service (ICS) at Chatrapur, then in the Madras Presidency and presently in Odisha state, in India.

School

• Turing's parents enrolled him at St Michael's, a primary school at 20 Charles Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, from the age of six to nine.

Christopher Morcom

• At Sherborne, Turing formed a significant friendship with fellow pupil Christopher Collan Morcom (13 July 1911 – 13 February 1930), who has been described as Turing's "first love".

University and work on computability

• After Sherborne, Turing studied as an undergraduate from 1931 to 1934 at King's College, Cambridge, where he was awarded first-class honours in mathematics.

Career and research

Cryptanalysis

• During the Second World War, Turing was a leading participant in the breaking of German ciphers at Bletchley Park.

Bombe

• Within weeks of arriving at Bletchley Park, Turing had specified an electromechanical machine called the bombe, which could break Enigma more effectively than the Polish bomba kryptologiczna, from which its name was derived.

Hut 8 and the naval Enigma

• Turing decided to tackle the particularly difficult problem of German naval Enigma "because no one else was doing anything about it and I could have it to myself".

Turingery

• In July 1942, Turing devised a technique termed Turingery (or jokingly Turingismus) for use against the Lorenz cipher messages produced by the Germans' new Geheimschreiber (secret writer) machine.

Delilah

• Following his work at Bell Labs in the US, Turing pursued the idea of electronic enciphering of speech in the telephone system.

Early computers and the Turing test

• Between 1945 and 1947, Turing lived in Hampton, London, while he worked on the design of the ACE (Automatic Computing Engine) at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL).

Pattern formation and mathematical biology

• When Turing was 39 years old in 1951, he turned to mathematical biology, finally publishing his masterpiece "The Chemical Basis of Morphogenesis" in January 1952.

Personal life

Engagement

• In 1941, Turing proposed marriage to Hut 8 colleague Joan Clarke, a fellow mathematician and cryptanalyst, but their engagement was short-lived.

Conviction for indecency

• In January 1952, Turing was 39 when he started a relationship with Arnold Murray, a 19-year-old unemployed man.

Treasure

• In the 1940s, Turing became worried about losing his savings in the event of a German invasion.

Death

• On 8 June 1954, at his house at 43 Adlington Road, Wilmslow, Turing's housekeeper found him dead.

Government apology and pardon

• In August 2009, British programmer John Graham-Cumming started a petition urging the British government to apologise for Turing's prosecution as a homosexual.