PAGE ONE

GOALS OF THE IMPERIAL CENSORSHIP OFFICE

To eliminate acquisition of strategic materials by the Axis.

To deny commercially tradable materials to the Axis.

To deny useful information to the Axis.

To collect useful information about the Axis.

To identify confidential human assets employed by the Axis.

MEANS

Interception and search at sea of ships engaged in civilian commerce.

Search of the cargo of all civilian aircraft landing in British controlled areas.

Search of all crews and passengers and their personal effects found on intercepted ships and aircraft.

Censorship of international mail found on intercepted ships and aircraft.

Censorship of local mail in commonwealth countries and militarily occupied areas.

Censorship of cabled communications originating from or addressed to commonwealth countries and occupied areas.

PAGE TWO

IMPERIAL STATION CODES

IA Gibraltar

IB Antigua

IC Bermuda

ID Jamaica

IE Trinidad

IG Bahamas

II British Guiana

ISS Grenada

ITT St. Lucia

TERMINAL STATION CODES

A Gibraltar

B Antigua

C Bermuda

D Jamaica

E Trinidad

F Aden

G Bahamas

H Barbados

I British Guiana

J British Honduras

K British Solomons

L Ceylon

M Cyprus

N Kenya & Uganda

O Northern Rhodesia

P UK

Q Nyssaland

R Tanganyika

S UK

T UK

U Zanzibar

V Egypt

W Falkland Islands

X Fiji

Y Gilbert & Ellis Is

Z Hong Kong

AA Montserrat

BB St. Kitts & Nevis

CC Virgin Islands

DD Malta

EE Mauritius

FF Malaya/Singapore

GG Penang

HH Sarawak

II Borneo & Guiana

JJ New Hebrides

KK Palestine

LL Seychelles

MM Gambia

NIN Cumbia

NN Gambia

OO Gold Coast

PP Nigeria

QQ Sierra Leone

RR Dominica

SS Grenada

TT St. Lucia

UU St. Vincent

WW St. Helena

XX Ascension

YY Somalia

ZZ Eritrea

DOMINION & OCCUPIED ZONES

DA Australia

DB Canada

DC Newfoundland

DDA New Zealand

DE Southern Rhodesia

DF South Africa

DG Burma

DH India

DI Syria

DJ Iraq

DK Iran

ZA Tripolitania

ZB Madagascar

ZC Reunion

ZD Rhodes

PAGE THREE

WHAT WAS EXAMINED IN BERMUDA

Almost 100% of letter mail and parcel post between the Americas and the rest of the world.

A large part of other international mail in the world except that going to the UK. (It would be censored in the UK.)

All philatelic mail. Philatelic items were forbidden whether mint, used, or covers. All were confiscated. Examiner 4443 was responsible for philatelic mail.

Mail to or from British colonies was rarely re-censored in Bermuda, particularly when to or from the UK.

Objects of invariable examination were items from Jamaica and Ireland, which the station suspected of disloyalty.

Every bag, every letter, every package, and every hand carried document carried by air and sea passengers.

Every passenger was interrogated and physically searched.

All ships engaged in commercial trade.

Mail to/from the censors themselves. To avoid embarrassment letters to/from Terminal censors were examined by Imperial censors and vice versa.

PAGE FOUR

WAS A LETTER EXAMINED IN BERMUDA?

Early examinations typically resulted in affixing a cachet saying Bermuda.

P.C.22 labels indicate Bermuda opening, typically by the Terminal Station.

P.C.102 labels were only used in Bermuda, but only until the summer of 1940.

Starting in mid-1941 only Bermuda examiners applied a four or five digit number (between 1000 and 99,999) to the back center of each registered envelope. By the end of January 1940 the number was in red and would remain so until Bermuda closed. This number was not related to the registration number placed by a postal clerk on the front side.

If a "C" or "IC" was written on the envelope, usually near the label. These markings began in late 1941.

If the censor is known to have been assigned to Bermuda at the time the item was examined. Examiners carried their assigned number with them if reassigned to a different station.

If the letter is known to have followed the FAM-18 route (except during February-April 1940).

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BERMUDA TO WASHINGTON

3 December 1940



PASSED BY CENSOR 23 BERMUDA

At the onset of the war Bermuda residents were requested to mail letters addressed abroad unsealed. The censor would read the letter, affix the CM21 circular "passed by censor Bermuda" cachet and seal the letter. No resealing label would have been required. Censor 23 was a postal clerk in St. George. Early in the war he was authorized by the Imperial Terminal Station Bermuda to examine mail originating in St. George. He was required to thoroughly examine all enveloped and postcard mail from St. George addressed to foreign countries.

NEW YORK CITY to GERMANY

30 January 1940

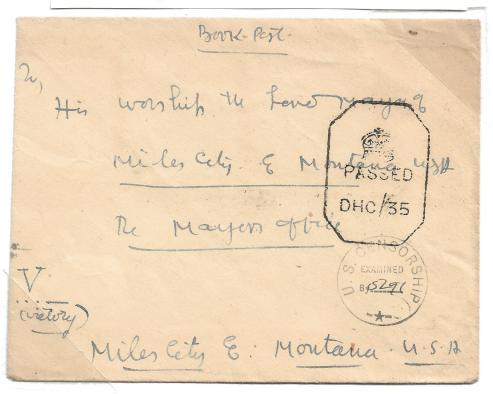
Postmarked Days After US Ordered Pan Am to Bypass Bermuda



Opened by British Censor 2060: Triniday or Gibraltar??? Opened in Germany, location not cited.

WANNA BE A CENSOR??

POONA CITY, INDIA 18 NOVEMBER 1942



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	may God bles	n the British Empire	84-5. A