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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.

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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
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

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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.

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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: Trinidad or Gibraltar???

Opened in Germany, location not cited.

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WANNA BE A CENSOR??

POONA CITY, INDIA
18 NOVEMBER 1942

Book-Post.

2,
His worship the Love mayor
Miles City, E. Montana USA
The Mayor's office

V
(victory)

Miles City E. Montana U.S.A.

Stamp: PASSED DHC/35
Stamp: CENSORSHIP EXAMINED By 5296

Sirdar D.V. Gokhale, God save the King. 604 Sadasaiv Peth,
M.A. सिरदारगिरासि Poona City, India.
18-XI-42 卐

The victory prayer for the British
Empire and
U.S.A.

V
(victory.)

मिरम मिरम मिरम मिरम
मिरम मिरम मिरम मिरम
मिरम मिरम मिरम मिरम
मिरम मिरम मिरम मिरम

The 'Rama Nama' prayer:

May God bless the British Empire & U.S.A.

Prayer with the 'Vajra'
gah 'Pravah'.

up, up with the British Empire
and U.S.A.