THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

A Study Group of the Germany

Philatelic Society

U.S. Censorship Reports on German Military and Postal Systems Operations

[From Records in the National Archives]

Extracted from the "*Third Reich Study Group Bulletin*"

Articles originally compiled by

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Monograph TRSG-08

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Table of Contents

Title Page 1
..... 1
TABLE OF CONTENTS 1
INTRODUCTION 3
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 3
..... 5
The Reichpost's Air-Raid Protection Service, by Benjamin R. Beede (#88) 5
..... 7
The Postal System in Germany During WW II, by Benjamin R. Beede (#96) 7
..... 18
San Juan Postal Censorship Evaluation of German Censorship, by Myron Fox (#117) 18
..... 29
U.S. Army Report on German Censorship Circa 1941, by Myron Fox (#119) 29
..... 36
Allied Interest in GermanFeldpost Numbers, by Myron Fox (#120) 36
..... 45
Canadian Postal Censorship Report on Conditions in Germany, by Myron Fox (#121) 45
..... 53
Report on Censorship Materials Captured in Cologne, by Myron Fox (#126) 53
..... 57
Report on Documents Found at Paris Censorship, by Myron Fox (#126) 57
..... 66
Censorship and the German Intelligence Service, by Myron Fox 66

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL ABOUT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES 73
..... 73
1. The Gems of Record Group 242 - Foreign Records Seized 73
2. Seizure of European Records during World War II 77
3. The Return of Captured Records form World War II 79
..... 82
Captured German and Related Records on Microfilm (Finding Aid) 82
..... 84
Collection of Foreign Records Seized - NARA Record Group 242 (Finding Aid) 84

INTRODUCTION

The individual articles included in this "monograph" were originally published in various issues of the ***Third Reich Study Group Bulletin.*** The two authors of these had the good fortune to work in the Washington, DC area for a number of years and were able to visit the National Archives and Research Administration and examine a number of those records. The articles presented here are based on their notes and photocopies of some materials.

The volume of material which was acquired, preserved, microfilmed, and returned to the European countries from which it had been taken defies the imagination. As Myron Fox noted in the introduction to one of his reports, "I also discovered that this vast amount of material is so inadequately cataloged that one could spend a lifetime accessing it."[1]

Each of these articles was self-contained, and there was no particular pattern to their contents. Therefore, I have chosen to simply place them here in this monograph in their order of publication. To provide some perspective on the volume of materials in this archive, I have gone to the NARA website, and extracted the information on a number of webpages which describe the holdings. These were added following all the articles from the **TRSG Bulletin.**

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the early years of World War II, several elements in the United States military and other areas of the government realized that there would be a requirement to preserve artifacts and records which would be encountered during the conflict with the Germans. Special groups were established to locate and preserve art and cultural artifacts. One such effort was documented in the recent movie "The Documents Men". Other efforts were directed at German military and administrative records, which the intelligence agencies believed would provide information vital to the war efforts.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), working with both historians and the military developed plans to acquire, review, and preserve records. Obviously, the military and intelligence operations had the first opportunity to examine these records, and prepare evaluations which would then be available to support subsequent military actions. As records were released by the military, the civilian agencies went into operation. Records were

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[1] Fox, Myron, *"Allied Interest in German Feldpost Numbers"*, **TRSG Bulletin**, Vol. III, No. 3 (Whole No. 120), July 1996, p. 8.

organized, and many records microfilmed. Many of these records were transported to Great Britain and the United States for processing.

Following the end of the war, plans were made to return the majority of the records to their respective government archives. This did not happen immediately, as many countries had no support infrastructure to deal with the volume of records, and certain records, especially those related to activities in what became East Germany, were eventually returned to what became West Germany so they would be more readily available to researchers. Virtually all of these records which were returned were microfilmed first, and the microfilm copies retained in the National Archives. There were over 70,000 microfilms prepared from these documents.

An expanded version of the above story was found on a National Archives blog, in a series of three short articles by Sonia Kahn, the first of which can be found at:

https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2016/08/10/the-gems-of-record-group-242-foreign-records-seized/

To simplify access to this series of articles, a version was printed and is included following the articles extracted from the TRSG Bulletin. Because most of these records dealt with NARA Record Group 242, I have included the web based descriptive fining aid following the articles. Because information on web pages is often dynamic in nature, the reader is advised to do any serious searching for information using the on-line pages.

Captured German and Related Records on Microfilm, NARA website at:

https://www.archives.gov/research/captured-german-records

Please report any errors of problems with viewing these articles to the compiler using the contact information which follows.

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The Reichspost's Air-Raid Protection Service

by Benjamin R. Beede

The following are extracts from the 'Civilian Defense Division Final Report', 2nd Ed. Jan. 1947. This report was part of 'The United States Strategic Bombing Survey', a comprehensive assessment of the effectivity of U.S. air attacks against strategic enemy targets.

XVIII. National Post Office (Communications) Air-Raid Protection

1. Organization Of German Communications System. The German Post Office Department (Deutsche Reichspost) controlled the postal, telegraph and telephone systems of the entire nation through the Ministry of Communications. The country was divided into approximately 40 communication districts (Reichspostdirektionsbezirke), including the occupied countries. Each district had at its head a district president, who was accountable only to the ministry, and he, in turn, had subordinates in charge of each of the three services.

2. Organization of Communications System Air-Raid Protection (Reichspost Luftschutz). The president of each district was resonsible for the air-raid protection. He appointed a full-time leader who carried out the directives of the Ministry of Communications, and was responsible for the training of employees, the procurement of equipment and all other air-raid protection measures. This leader had three or more full-time air-raid protection deputies, each representing one of the three services or a larger branch thereof. Other air-raid protection leaders were appointed on an additional duty basis for each branch of the postal, telephone and telegraph services, as well as for warehouses, works, garages and offices. In addition to these leaders, every individual employee was obliged to serve in some air-raid protection capacity unless a physical disability or the demands of his office prevented. Fire watching, duty in the control center and similar duties were prescribed by roster with employees being called upon once in every seven to 16 days. They were paid a clothing deterioration allowance for each night of duty and an additional reimbursement for food and transportation.

3. Training Training of the air-raid protection leaders of the several departments in the communications systems consisted of fire-fighting, gas defense, first aid and self-protection. Fire-fighting technique was taught by members of the municipal fire departments; first aid and gas drill by the Red Cross or a staff physician. The leaders themselves then trained their subordinates in all phases of air-raid protection work, usually during evening of duty. Inspectors and instructors traveled throughout the district to give refresher courses.

4. Equipment Fire apparatus, both mobile and stationary, was dispersed at strategic locations within the district and was used whenever the district air-raid protection leader directed. Telephone operators and all those on duty as air-raid protection workers were furnished gas masks, other employees being required to purchase them on the open market. Gas mask microphones were available for the telephone operators on duty. The other usual equipment was on hand: shovels, hand pumps, sand boxes, first aid kits, helmets, buckets and miscellaneous hand tools.

5. Shelters. Reinforced basement rooms were provided for use as shelters. They were equiped with gas-proof doors, forced air ventilation, and one or more first-aid rooms. The control center was situated in one of these rooms, together with offices for key officials and an auxiliary telephone switchboard. In some cities the telephone exchanges were permanently installed in deep shelters or moved to special shelters in the suburbs.

6. Post-Raid Work. Due to the specialized nature of repair and reconstruction in the communications system, a series of mobile teams was formed from among the regular maintenance personnel of the organization.

7. Telephone and Telegraph Service (This long section has been deleted ED).

8. Postal Service. All incoming mail was held at suburban offices if a city post office was damaged. The scattered populace called for its mail at the general delivery windows, and evacuees made known their new addresses. Mail that was uncalled for in four weeks was returned to the sender.

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Telegraph and Works Troops (Telegraph und Bauamptruppen).

a. Origin. This service was organized in 1941 by the Ministry of Postal Service (Reichspost Ministerium) from among specially trained communications personnel in the large postal districts of Germany. Fifty crews of special repairmen were organized as mutual-aid groups for the emergency repair of the postal system telephone and telegraph lines in bombed areas. This service has been known by several different titles; first, it was the catastrophy-aid service (Katestrophenhilfe); then, in 1943, the air-protection organization for maintenance of utilities (Luftnothilfe); and, finally, in 1944 and until the present, is referred to under the general title of telegraph and works troops.

b. Plan of Organization. The personnel, being recruited from the ranks of regular postal department employees, was divided into working teams according to the specialties of the members, such as a line repair team (Streckenbautruppe) of 15 men composed of a leader and 14 cable splicers, linesmen, truck drivers and laborers; a cable welding team (Kabellötertruppe) of 15 men comprising a foreman, cable welders and laborers; a distribution crew (Schalt Truppe) of five men consisting of a leader and four technicians; a dial exchange team (Wählamt Truppe) of four men; a long-distance exchange team (Fernamtstruppe) of three men; power teams (Starkstomtruppe) of five men each; mobile generator teams (Netzersatstruppe) of three men each; an accumulator team (Batterie-und-Lade-Truppe) of three men; and an emergency distribution reserve (Notvermittlungsaufbautruppe) crew of four men.

c. Operations.

1. The director of postal services Berlin ordered these units from one postal distribution area to another as emergencies arose, but kept one complete team of the aforementioned specialists at Berlin at all times as a strategic reserve. They traveled in their own repair trucks which were fully equipped for the emergency and, on arrival at destination, were quartered and maintained by local authorities. The seriousness of the damage often required their presence for as long as six weeks. These troops wore the dark blue uniform, trimmed with red markings, of the regular postal service, but were not armed.

2. One of the outstanding achievements of the regularly established departments of German government was that the postal service (Reichspost) in the prompt restoration of its communication facilities following air raids, as both military and air-raid-protection forces had to rely almost entierly upon land line facilities for air attack intelligence, owing to the shortage of radio and wireless devices. Their advance planning appears to have been excellent with respect to providing trained repairmen and replacement materials.

THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN GERMANY DURING WW II

by Benjamin R. Beede

The following, an excerpt from Section 12 of the Civil Affairs Handbook on Germany shown below, provides a detailed view of the organization and operation of Germany's postal system during WW II.

ARMY SERVICE FORCES MANUAL **M 356-12**

Civil Affairs

CIVIL AFFAIRS HANDBOOK

GERMANY

SECTION 12: COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL OF PUBLIC OPINION

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY SERVICE FORCES, 4 APRIL 1944

RESTRICTED . . . Dissemination of restricted matter. - The information contained in restricted documents and the essential characteristics of restricted material may be given to any person known to be in the service of the United States and to persons of undoubted loyalty and discretion who are cooperating in Government work, but will not be communicated to the public or to the press except by authorized military public relations agencies. (See also par. 18b, AR 380-5, 28 Sep 1942.)

of people who partake in hikes and excursions (before the war even sea voyages) organized by the KDF formerly ran into millions, and undoubtedly the majority of the seventeen million tourist who in 1942 allegedly spent a hundred million days in 8,965 resorts were traveling under the auspices of the KDF.

IV. POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

The postal and telecommunications system of Germany is one of the best in the world. The operations of the various forms of communication are united under a single administration (the Postal Ministry) with the consequent advantage that the services are integrated with and complement each other.

The country in peacetime had an efficient postal system, performing all the functions of the United States post office and several others. The German wire network is extensive; the trunk telephone and telegraph cables total about 70,000 miles in length. Equipment is in general of the most modern types; about 85 percent of the country's telephones are automatic (dial). Teletype is extensively employed in telegraphy. Engineering discoveries in the fields of telephotography and television have probably been put to more extensive practical use than in any other country. Several powerful transmitters near Berlin carried on radio-telegraphic and telephonic communication with the rest of the world. The German North Sea and Baltic coasts and the principal airports were well provided with modern radio direction-finder and radio-beacon facilities.

Most of the information contained in this Handbook refers to pre-war facilities and services. Changes made since that time have for the most part been emergency measures adopted for reasons of security, shortages of manpower or materials, or to fill special wartime needs; much of this information can be found only in intelligence sources. The most striking change has been the increased role of the military. Many statistics given are as of 1937, the last year before the successive annexations of Austria, the Sudetenland, Memel, Danzig, and the eastern and western territories incorporated into the Reich.

A. The Postal Administration (Reichspost)

1. The Reichspostministerium. The control of Germany's communications system is centered in the Reichspostministerium. Means of communications, once privately controlled, such as the Trans-Radio A.G., and the services of areas annexed to the Reich, such as Austria, have been brought into the highly organized structure of the Reichspost, centered in Berlin. The postal department has, on the other hand, been deprived of jurisdiction over those communications functions which have to do with the control of public opinion (transferred to the Propaganda Ministry in 1933) or with military activity.

The Postal Ministry is headed by a Cabinet Minister. The Minister has generally been a careerist in the postal administration. Assisting him is a Secretary of State and an advisory board (Beirat der Deutschen Reichspost) of ten members chosen by the Cabinet on the nomination of the Minister. Members serve for three years without compensation. The board

normally includes Nazi Party officials, one or more representatives of the Propaganda Ministry, and representatives of the electrical and other industries and of finance. Its role is purely consultative.

The Postal Administration is divided into six main departments handling the following functions: (1) mail; (2) telephone; (3) telegraph, radio and television; (4) personnel; (5) budget, accounting, finance, construction, and postal check services; (6) administrative planning, statistics, publicity, operation of postal motor vehicles and repair shops, etc. In addition there are two special sections handling (1) "foreign policy and colonial matters," and (2) "eastern territories." Matters of supply and certain technical problems concerning all of the departments are administered by the Central Office of the Reichspost (Reichspostzentralamt). Building is under the Reichspostbaudirektion. Postal savings services are administered by the Postsparkassenamt, a separate bureau under the Postal Ministry; deposits and disbursements are handled by ordinary post offices. The Government Printing Office (Reichsdrückerei) and several research agencies are also under the Ministry.

2. Local Administration. The administrative areas of the postal system are the postal districts (Reichspostdirektionsbezirke), of which there are thirty-eight in the old Reich (1937 boundaries), and forty-seven in the Greater Reich of today. The districts are headed by presidents. They do not correspond to any political subdivision. The headquarters of the postal districts are listed in Section C2 on the Telephone System.

The various categories of local postal administrative offices

include the post office (three classes), the railway post office, the money order office, the telegraph and telephone offices, the telegraph-construction office, the Postal Administration branch office, the radio office, and auxiliary offices and agencies corresponding to each of these. There are approximately 47,000 such offices in the Old Reich. The Postal Administration in 1939 owned or rented 5,594 pieces of real estate, 6,336 service buildings, and numerous dwellings. It employs about 490,000 employees, all of whom are civil servants.

The principal civil service categories in the Postal Administration are (1) Oberpostrat, (2) Postrat, (3) Postamtmann, (4) Obertelegrapheninspektor and Technischer Obertelegrapheninspektor, (5) Telegrapheninspektor and Technischer Telegrapheninspektor, (6) Telegraphenoberwerkmeister, (7) Telegraphenwerkmeister, (8) Telegraphenwerkführer.

3. International Arrangements. Germany is a member of the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunications Union. In 1942 she formed a European Postal and Telegraph Union to coordinate services in the countries under her control. Members are Germany, Albania, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Croatia, the Netherlands, Norway, Rumania, Slovakia, and San Marino.

4. Scope of Authority. The Postal Administration is in complete charge of Germany's main postal, telegraph, and telephone systems. (The railway administration and the armed services maintain wire services of their own, but these are of minor importance.) The three services are thoroughly integrated, with the result that postal and telegraph offices (and sometimes telephone exchanges) are commonly housed in

the same buildings; telegrams are delivered by postmen on the same basis as special delivery letters. (Letter telegrams (Brieftelegramme) are delivered as ordinary mail.) Telegrams are sent in to the telegraph office by phone or by postman, and telephone cables are used for teletype and telephoto transmission.

The Deutsch-Atlantische Telegraphengesellschaft, a private company (which was, however, completely under the control of the Postal Ministry), operated three of the principal German submarine cables before the war. The Ministry performs certain technical functions in operating the broadcasting companies, but the programs are handled by the German Broadcasting Corporation (Reichsrundfunkgesellschaft), a government-controlled company under the Propaganda Ministry. The operation of the other radio services is shared with the War, Navy and Air Ministries (and the shipping and air transport companies) in peacetime, and probably virtually monopolized by the armed forces in wartime. Experimentation on telephotographic transmission and television, carried on by private firms but under government guidance, was placed in the hands of the Air Ministry in 1935 in view of its strategic importance to aviation.

B. Telephone System. The telephone system is the most important of the electrical communications services in terms of investment; in 1935, the Postal Ministry estimated that about 80 percent of the amount invested in telephone, telegraph, and radio was in telephone equipment. There has been a consistent decline in the past ten years in the use of telegraph, and a corresponding growth in the use of the telephone.

RESTRICTED

- 119 -

E. Postal Services. The Postal Administration provides all of the services provided by the United States Post Office. In addition it operates an extensive system of mail- and passenger-carrying busses, and performs certain banking and collection services.

1. Administration. A general description of the Postal Administration and of the division of the mail-handling, transportation, and banking functions among the parts of the Ministry has been given. (Section C1). The system is entirely government-operated; there are no lessees or concessionaires.

2. Services. The Postal Administration carries, delivers, and collects ordinary letters and postcards, parcels and packages, registered letters and packages, insured and C.O.D. mail, and special delivery and airmail letters.

Table 5. POSTAL TRAFFIC, GERMANY, 1937

Letters handled1/	6,738,630
of which registered	94,960
Letters and small packages insured	3,290
Ordinary (unsealed) parcels	303,050
Sealed and insured parcels	2,490
C.O.D. letters	76,420
C.O.D. packages	32,180

The German handling of mail was rapid and efficient. Delivery within cities was expedited by the use of modern sorting and conveying machines; Berlin had a tube network (Rohrpost) with some 250 miles of

1/ This presumably includes special delivery; it may also include airmail.

tube running throughout the city. Other cities had similar services. In Berlin, in 1940, an estimated 7,864,000 pieces of mail and telegrams were transmitted by the tubes, which used both the air-pressure and air-vacuum methods of transmissions. The system had 90 stations, most of them between .75 and 1.5 miles apart.

Interurban mail is carried by the railroads where railroad connections are available. To carry the mail to outlying districts, however, the Postal Administration has established its own bus system. Postal busses also carry passengers; the passenger service is both a source of revenue to the administration and an important part of the country's network, because it affords the only means of reaching places not situated on a railroad. Routes radiate from local centers in each province, generally serving areas or routes not served by railroads. The Reichspost owns over 4,000 busses. Before the war 50 of these operated on urban lines tataling 125 miles in length, the rest on interurban lines---of which there were around 2,400---with a total route length of 34,000 miles. In 1937, 84,810,000 passengers were carried. Since the outbreak of the war the bus service has been greatly curtailed.

In addition to busses, the Postal Administration owns numerous other vehicles: electric cars for urban collections and delivery, trucks for maintenance and repair, motorcycles, trailers, etc. On 31 March 1938, the Reichspost owned 17,714 motor vehicles: 4,148 were busses; 2,448, electric cars; 2,412, trucks in the Fernmeldedienst; and 8,706, other vehicles (motorcycles, etc.), as well as 3,151 trailers. Special filling stations and repair shops service these vehicles.

Airmail is carried under contract by the Deutsche Lufthansa. In 1937, 1,337,000 pounds of letters, 368,000 pounds of packages, and 1,387,000 pounds of newspapers were carried by air.

The Reichspost handles four types of banking service: (1) postal money orders of the type used in the United States; (2) postal savings, which in 1938 paid 3 percent interest per annum; (3) the postal checking service; and (4) collection and forwarding service. When the Germans annexed Austria, they reorganized their postal savings organization on the Austrian model. The system is administered by a special office (the Postsparkassenamt) within the Postal Ministry, and any of the 47,000 post offices and agencies will accept deposits and make payments.

The following statistics indicate the volume of these services in 1937:

Table 6. POSTAL BANKING IN GERMANY, 1937

Service	Number	Amount (RM.1000)
Postal checking accounts	1,119,370	846,210
Account entries of which settled without cash transaction	904,550,000	161,600,000
Money orders and payments through P.).	361,080,000	136,950,000
Postal orders to collect money	379,000	39,250
Orders to protest bills	4,200,000	455,120
Of which protests made by post	357,000	40,250

It will be noted that the Reichspost in its banking capacity acts as a collecting and forwarding agency. This service was done in one of two ways: creditors could obtain from the post office special forms (Zahlkarten) to be sent with their bills, so that the debtor could deposit money with the form at the post office for deposit in the creditor's postal checking account, the post office could present bills itself, the Reichspost acting much as an American commercial bank does in presenting a draft, i.e., collecting the money and forwarding it to the creditors, or recording the protest of the debtor.

German postal money orders are much the same as the American, except that the money is delivered by the postman.

The Reichspost also acted as a general financial agent of the government in receiving some tax payments, and in disbursing Winter Relief, special payments to large families, etc. Finally, the Reichspost collects all the radio-receiver license fees.

In general it will be noted that the Reichspost carries on many activities undertaken by the regular banking system in the United States. This service is necessitated by the smaller size and greater concentration of the German banking system, which does not handle a large volume of small accounts. It is unusual for a newspaper subscription, for instance, to be paid for by check in Germany, unless the check is on a postal checking account.

In order to facilitate its work the German Post Office has divided the Reich into twenty-four postal districts, which must be marked on envelopes by the senders using the followin g Postleitzahlen:

RESTRICTED

- 123 -

Table 6A. POSTAL DISTRICTS

District	
1	Gau Berlin
2	Gau Mark Brandenburg and the Stadkreis Schneidemühl and the Landkreise Arnswaldo, Friedeberg and Netzekreis of the Gau Pommern.
3	Gau Mecklenburg.
4	Gau Pommern.
5	Gau Danzig-Westpreussen.
5B	Gau Ostpreussen.
5C	Reichskommissariat Ostland.
6	Gau Wartheland.
7A	General Government
7B	Reichskommissariat Ukraine.
8	Gau Niederschlesien and the Landkreis Grulich of the Gau Sudetenland-Ost.
9A	Gau Oberschlesien.
9B	Gau Sudetenland-Ost.
10	Gau Sachsen, Gau Halle-Merseburg and the Kreis Altenburg of Gau Thüringen.
11A	Gau Sudetenland-West.
11B	The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.
12A	The Gaue Wien, Niederdonau, Steiermark.
12B	Gau Kärnten, Gau Oberdonau, Gau Salzburg, Gau Tirol-Vorarlberg.
13A	Gau Bayreuth, Gau Franken, Gau Main-Franken.
13B	Gau München-Oberbayern, Gau Schwaben and the district of Niederbayern of the Gau Bayruth.
14	Gau Württemberg-Hohenzollern.
15	Gau Thüringen.
16	Gau Hessen-Nassau, Gau Kurhessen.
17A	Gau Baden.
17B	Part of Gau Baden-Elsass.
18	Gau Westmark.
19	Gau Magdeburg-Anhalt.
20	Gau Osthannover, Gau Südhannover-Braunschweig.
21	Gau Westfalen-Nord, Gau Westfalen-Sud.
22	Gau Düsseldorf, Gau Essen, Gau Köln-Aschen, Gau Moselland.
23	Gau Weser-Ems, and the Landkreise Bremervorde, Wesermünde, Rottenburg and Osterholz-Scharmbeck of the Gau Osthannover, and the Landkreise Grafschaft Hoya and Diepholz of the Gau Südhannover-Braunschweig.
24	Gau Hamburg, Gau Schleswig-Holstein and the Landkreise Land Hadeln, Stade, Lüneburg and Harburg of the Gau Osthannover, and the town of Cuxhaven.

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SAN JUAN POSTAL CENSORSHIP EVALUATION OF GERMAN CENSORSHIP

by Myron Fox

This report, written by the U.S. Censorship Station in San Juan, Puerto Rico in late 1943, was declassified by the National Archives on 10/16/91.

I.) The Value of Knowing Enemy Censorship - to be cognizant of Enemy Censorship is as important as knowing our own censorship. To achieve that knowledge, this study has been made after a careful perusal of all information available at the San Juan Postal censorship Station from British and American sources.

Perhaps the most important phase of the analysis made is that which permits us to determine "when" a letter originating in Germany has or has not been censored, since that knowledge will increase the effectiveness of the evaluation made on the information obtained from the letter.

In the most recent stages of the war, German Censorship has been more lenient in examining mails and has permitted information of value to the United Nations.

The "why" of this situation is also analyzed in this report. However, for general purposes, we must accept that German censorship is as strict as we are in condemning, or returning to the sender, indiscreet communications that may eventually become extremely important to our forces and our effort.

Several of the reports used in the preparation of this analysis may have become obsolete due to certain suspected changes in German Censorship. It will be interesting to note that the changes are principally related to the defensive aspect of Censorship. Since defensive censorship is more important than offensive censorship, this analysis serves the double-barreled purpose of providing us with an analysis of German Censorship organization, methods, procedure and its present weaknesses.

II.) Organization of German Censorship - German Censorship, as determined by British Censorship, works under a structural organization identical to British and American Censorship: a small number of large units operating under one central organization, either following rules established for certain specific areas, or rules established for general purposes.

On December 23, 1942, British Censorship revealed that according to its investigations and analyses, there were twelve German Censorship units of major importance. These were the following:

1.	Königsberg	Germany	7.	Vienna	Austria
2.	Berlin	Germany	8.	Copenhagen	Denmark
3.	Cologne	Germany	9.	Oslo	Norway
4.	Munich	Germany	10.	Trondheim or Tromso	Norway
5.	Frankfurt-am-Main	Germany	11.	Paris	France
6.	Hamburg	Germany	12.	Bordeaux	France

Very frequently, according to a British report, printed matter has borne a stamp showing examination by the Gestapo. There is also a Military censorship which examines mail from service personnel which is re-examined by one of the units. Mail to and from British POWs and Internees in Germany is generally examined by Censorship at the various camps. It has not been possible to determine either the function or location of this type of censorship. Small camps usually transfer their mail to larger camps in the same region.

British Censorship in describing the organization of different German Censorship units states the following:

"**Königsberg**. Amt "**a**" situated in East Prussia, appears to examine mail between East Prussia and the Baltic countries and Germany proper.

Berlin: Amt "**b**", is the largest and most important unit and deals with all mail to German POWs and Internees in British hands, second class mail and parcels, with some Red Cross mail and with a great deal of First Class mail. It has Terminal and Transit Sections and often re-examines mail censored by another unit or by an Axis-controlled country. Air and surface mail between Germany and Poland, the Czech Protectorate, Sweden and South America is examined here, together with transit mails from these countries and from the Scandinavian countries and most captured mails. This unit formerly examined the surface mails to U.S.A. and mail routed via Siberia. Departments of Amt "b" are known to operate in the Festsale of the Zoological Gardens (Budapesterstrasse 20), and in the nearby Landwehrkasino (Jebensstrasse 2), all in the Charlottenburg district.

Cologne: Amt "**c**" probably operates in the Exhibition Halls at Deutz in Cologne. This unit obviously deals mainly with surface mail between Holland, Belgium and occasionally Occupied France and Germany, and with mails between those occupied countries, but a certain amount of mail from them destined for other countries and routed through Germany is examined there.

Munich: Amt "**d**" in the Central Post Office in Munich (Bayerstrasse 12) examines most air and surface mails to and from the Iberian Peninsula, and transit mails routed through Southern Germany. This is a large unit.

Frankfurt am Main Amt "**e**" originally examined trans-Atlantic air mails, both terminal German and transit Norwegian, Dutch and other mail Latterly, however, since the entry of U.S.A. into the war, Amt "e" has examined terminal Swiss Mails and mails to and from Occupied France, including French POWs and workers in Germany, and a certain amount of transit mail, including mails between U.S.A. and France and Switzerland.

Hamburg: Amt "**f**" undoubtedly functions to examine terminal mail between Germany and the Scandinavian countries, through letters from these countries destined beyond Germany are often examined there.

Vienna: Amt "**g**" is an important and highly linguistic unit for examination of terminal mail between Germany and Eastern European countries, and between Germany and other foreign countries routed via Turkey, and a certain proportion of Balkan transit mails, whether previously examined in the country of origin, or not.

Copenhagen: Amt "**k**" is in the Copenhagen Central Post Office, 37-39 Titgensgade. A type of label worded in Danish is believed to emanate from this unit, and, latterly to have supplanted the normal "k" German type. The unit is primarily for examination of mail passing between Denmark and other Scandinavian and Baltic countries.

Oslo: Amt "**o**" at Oslo, deals with mail between Norway and other Scandinavian and Baltic countries. This unit began to function only in Spring 1941.

Trondheim or Tromso: Amt "**t**". One letter from Tromso, Northern Norway, to Portugal, bore a "t" label and stamps covered over by the "b" label. The unit, possibly situated at Trondheim, or even at Tromso, must exist for censorship of mails between Norway and Sweden and Finland routed northwards, and for internal mail.

Paris: Amt "**x**" seems to be identified with the German Censorship known to exist in Paris. Its precise function at the present time is not known. It did examine about 8,000 letters a day passing as commercial or other

correspondence between the two zones, inter-zone post cards and also probably mail to and from the Channel Islands and some mail from Occupied France to Germany and Axis countries

Bordeaux: Amt "y" is also in France, and almost certainly at Bordeaux. Here again the present function is obscure but until November 11th this unit examined a smaller portion of official and other inter-zone correspondence, mail between Occupied France and the Iberian peninsula routed via Bilbao and Hendaye, and some mails routed between Germany and Portugal via the western French seaboard."

"Amt" means "Auslandsbrieprufstelle", (Censorship Bureau of Foreign Mail). The small initial letter in the label or stamp identifies the corresponding German Censorship unit, as shown in the following copy of a label:

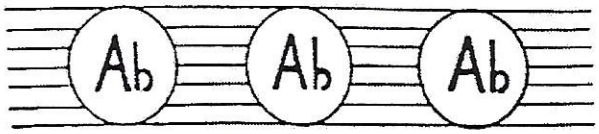
In describing the character of the units, listing and procedure, the same British report states as follows: "There are known to be about nine thousand examiners employed throughout the whole German Censorship at the moment. Each examiner has a different number. These numbers are not duplicated at different offices. Berlin has the largest unit, employing about 2,000 examiners. The units at Munich, Frankfurt and Vienna rank next in size. Berlin, as head office, appears to train examiners and then to transfer them to other units; new units seem to be composed of examiners formerly at Berlin. As far as is known there is an 8 hour working day at all units. In Berlin two shifts are worked daily: 7 a.m.-3 p.m. and 3 p.m.- 11 p.m. Pay is 200 Marks monthly for a single man or woman with a knowledge of one language, and 250 for two or more. There is a higher rate for married men. Army personnel, including those disabled, are known to be seconded for work in the censorship, and age limits are elastic: young students on vacation are employed at the Berlin branch, and at Munich an examiner was released, after a years illness, aged 72. Women form a large part of the staff. In the Vienna office there are many Hungarian Nazis, and presumably a good many other Nazi-inclined nationals of Balkan and other foreign countries. There is said to be an acute shortage of English readers.

On entering the Censorship office, the mail is sorted and then opened and checked. The checker puts his number on the cover and usually notes any enclosures. It is then transferred to the examiner who reads the letter and adds his number to cover and contents if harmless. It is then returned to the checking department, the contents are rechecked, the second checker may add his number, and the mail is mechanically sealed. The sorters also stamp the covers, and for privileged or unopened mail there are special stamps. The application of the numbers, by pencil, rubber stamp, etc. and their placing, differs in each unit, and it is nearly always possible to determine the unit by means of the method of numbering employed. The ordinary examiner does not submit, but attaches any letter of interest to a form, divided into sections, and indicates the special departments, within the censorship, to which it must go, according to the type of information involved - espionage, economic interest, foreign affairs, code, bad morale, etc. Specialists in these departments then submit the material.

Although mail does not appear to be read on a case basis, from serial numbers and other markings which appear on German censored mails, it is evident that particular attention is paid to suspect persons and that extensive watch lists and dossiers are kept. It is known that the Germans show a keen interest, through censorship, in conditions and morale in Occupied territories. Several writers have referred to their correspondence being watched and records being kept, and some have mentioned questionings, or punitive action, based on a knowledge of their correspondence, by the Gestapo."

The Pass Stamp - There is a rubber stamp impression which means a great deal to the alert examiner. that is the "pass stamp" used by German Censorship to indicate that a letter has not been read. The stamp is circular and bears the capital letter "A" which presumably stands for "Auslandsbriefprufstelle", together with a smaller letter that identifies the Unit that handled but did not read the letter.

It is possible that in some instances the letter may bear two "pass stamps". In that case, the examiner should note carefully the small letter appearing in the other rubber stamp impression. In some cases, a similar design as the "pass stamp" appears printed on tram lines, as postmarks usually are. The following reproduction shows how it often appears in letters passing through German Censorship.



If letters have been read, they usually bear pencil numbers, although occasionally, exceptions are made. It is also possible to find letters showing signs of having been steamed open by German Censorship, and yet bearing the "pass stamp". This occurs in the case of mail of the privileged class.

III. German Censorship Regulations - in this chapter we will state known regulations existing in Germany, related to censorship, taken from a British report dated December 23, 1942, as well as evidence of violations of such regulations as experienced by the San Juan Postal Censorship Station upon examining German mail.

1.) British report: Anyone wishing to write abroad must possess a permit bearing a photograph of the holder and particulars of his identity. The Gestapo may, at will, refuse to grant such a permit. Only a limited number of letters abroad may be written per month. Men on active service may not write abroad without special permission. They must use the Field Post Office. In occupied territories where no other postal service is available, any German in official or private capacity may use the Field Post Office, but must pay normal civilian postal rates. Foreign workers in German territory may apparently write freely to their own or other countries. They may write to prisoners in Allied hands but not to those in Axis hands. Jews and Aryans may not correspond with each other.

Comment: Evidence that anyone wishing to write abroad must possess a permit was again found recently when a correspondent in Germany states that inasmuch as "he had no permit to write, he was placing his letter in the same cover of a friend who had a permit".

2.) British report: Punishments varying from fines to death penalties are threatened to users of intermediaries in neutral countries, recognized or otherwise. In spite of this warning, however, a vast amount of intermediary correspondence, possibly not always recognized as such, still permeates through private individuals, and mail still comes through from recognized intermediary channels, though in greatly diminished volume. Correspondence with Enemy territory is only permitted through the Red Cross, and only one member of a family may use this medium.

Comment: Apparently, the system followed to correspond through intermediaries in neutral countries is the following: The original writer in Germany sends his letter to the intermediary either in Spain or Portugal. Although the letter may bear a date, generally, they bear no city of origin. The intermediary then forwards the letter. As pointed out in the British report, writing through intermediaries has consistently decreased since September 1942.

3.) British Report: No parcels whatsoever may be sent out of Germany by a private individual, except to POWs and Internees. Newspapers may only be sent direct from a publisher. No printed matter may be enclosed with private correspondence. Money is sent in the form of postal drafts to German nationals abroad.

Comment: Newspapers of German origin have been found in the mails, although they bear Spanish postmarks. Apparently, they were mailed through intermediaries.

4.) British Report: the writer must hand in a letter for abroad at a Post Office and show the permit, which must state the country of destination. Any person other than the writer handing in a letter must sign on the cover. The letter must be handed in open, and the stamp must be affixed by the Post Office clerk. Letters to POWs or Internees sent by air mail must not bear a postage stamp, but must be marked "taxe percue". They must not be marked with any form of post office franking slogan, and must be sent in a double envelope so that, in case of an indiscreet address, postmark, etc., the inner envelope may be utilized

The writer's name and address must appear on the cover and each enclosure. The envelope must not have a tissue lining. Non-commercial correspondence must not cover more than four sides of paper, and these not larger than 210 x 297 millimeters. In the case of air mail paper, only one side may be used. For POW and Internee mail, only Latin script is allowed and typewritten letters are encouraged. Only type-written or printed matter is permitted for commercial correspondence.

Comment: German Censorship frequently encloses a form calling the attention of the correspondents to regulations pertaining to the manner, length and clarity with which they must reply.

5.) British Report: The use of abbreviations of any sort, including shorthand is forbidden. Braille may not be used. No chess problems, crosswords or any sort of cryptic puzzles are allowed. Hebrew, Yiddish and Esperanto are not permitted. No trade documents of any kind may be enclosed with private correspondence. No political matter may be enclosed with letters for abroad or sent in any way except by the Propaganda Ministry. No newspaper cuttings or obituary notices are allowed. View postcards or photographs are not allowed, but other picture postcards, birthday, Xmas greeting cards and drawings appear to be treated with leniency. The enclosure of mounted photographs and photographs showing uniforms is not permissible, though the latter have occasionally been allowed to pass. Ordinary snapshots may be sent. A certain amount of latitude is granted in the case of enclosures in mail to German POWs and Internees - razor blades, cigarettes and other small enclosures being permitted. Postage stamps may not be sent abroad. Not more than one International reply coupon may be enclosed in a letter and money in incoming mail must be changed into German currency within three days.

Comment: Although no obituary notices are allowed, such statements as "Paul died on the Eastern front", etc., are frequently found. Photographs of German soldiers are very rare but when they are found, the volume is astonishing. This picture clearly shows the uniform of Rumanian soldiers fighting on the Russian front.

6.) British Report: The word "Jude" penciled on Jewish letters from time to time by the Censorship shows that special attention is made to this mail. There are many complaints that Jewish mail is delayed and incoming letters to them are not always delivered. Jews in Germany may only write one letter abroad per month. They must give the number of their identity card, and those in ghettos must hand in their correspondence through their Jewish council. Jews deported to Poland are issued with special new identity cards and may not write abroad until they have received these. Restrictions on mail of deported Jews have recently become much more severe. One writer, in August 1942, stated that Jews in Poland could only write 15 words on a postcard. Since then, numerous correspondents in neutral countries have written that their mail is not delivered to Jews and that it has been impossible to establish communication. Registered letters are not deliverable to Jews, and if a parcel is addressed to a Jew, he must first sign a receipt and then often does not receive it. Mention of Jewish Feast Days, etc., in letters is excised.

Comment: In the last few months no evidence has been found that Jewish people are still permitted to correspond abroad.

III.) **The Technique of German Censorship** - In describing the technique of German Censorship, the British report states as follows:

"Almost 100% of outgoing mail from German Territory is examined. Occasionally, presumably after influxes of new prisoners, POW mail to Germans in the United Kingdom has simply been slit, sealed with plain tape and released, apparently without examination. The Germans do not appear to have any particularly hard and fast rules regarding privileged mails. Mail to and from diplomatic and other officials, nobility, and persons of importance has sometimes been passed apparently without examination, and at other times has been examined. Mail of accredited representatives of occupied countries does, presumably in accordance with the pretended policy of self-government, appear to have been accorded diplomatic privilege. There is normally very little delay in mails subject to German censorship, times of continental transit being particularly rapid, but certain categories of mail have sometimes been delayed. All POW mail is from time to time held for long periods. It would appear from writers' comments that a fairly large amount of mail is condemned. It is known that mail entering Germany has not been delivered but simply read to the addressee, the letters being retained."

Comment: Mail originating in Germany and destined to South America which is examined at San Juan always bear some German Censorship identification. Even diplomatic mail does not escape Nazi examination. The very small delay in processing mail is at times astonishing. In one instance, mail was received at San Juan which had originated in Germany only six to ten days earlier.

The British report further states:

"A large percentage of German censored mail is subjected to a routine test prior to examination During the latter part of 1942 this proportion has increased from 50% to about 75%. The type of test has altered so that instead of faint traces of chemicals, undisguised bright colored streaks appear across many letters. About 50% of the letters are subjected to such major tests. Blank sheets are removed and a penciled line is often drawn across a blank page. Both deletions and excisions appear on German censored mail, although the use of the latter method has increased recently. In both cases the passage is usually cleverly removed so that the meaning is not clear from the context. In the case of deletion the surface of the paper is removed before the application of black deleting fluid so that the passage is hardly ever restorable."

Comment: For a long period (October 1942 to April 1943) objectionable passages were deleted. By the end of April, 1943, however, and since then, deletions are seldom found while excisions have increased. The report, in discussing deletions and German Censorship technique, states as follows:

"Passages for deletion or submission are marked in pencil by the examiner. Letters are occasionally passed which retain such markings. Nor is it unusual to find critical comments written on a letter by the examiner. This is particularly prevalent in the case of British POW mail, where the camp censors are doubtless constrained by regulations less than those in the large offices. It has sometimes been evident that the camp censors have altered a POW's remarks slightly so as to distort their meaning. Censorship enclosure slips are often amplified by the addition of remarks by the examiner.

Letters are returned to sender for offenses against censorship regulations. Explanatory enclosure slips are fewer in number than those used by British Censorship, are more composite but less explicit. A letter may be returned, for instance, simply as "unsuitable for transmission". Contrary to British practice, the Germans make a habit of returning or retaining one part of the letter while forwarding another. Covers have been forwarded completely devoid of contents. This practice perhaps partially explains the amount of crossed letters, about which there are numerous complaints.

Germany shows a lack of readers in some of the less common languages. Most uncommon languages are read in Berlin. There appears to be an Erse reader in Munich, but not at Berlin or Vienna. Welsh is read at Berlin by an examiner who also reads a good deal of Danish mail. It is thought remotely possible that this reader may be the Danish professor Holgar Pendersen, a well known Gaelic scholar. The use of Welsh by POWs in Germany is strongly deprecated. A letter written in Basque bore a Berlin censorship label and sorters' numbers, but no examiner's number. There may be no Basque reader, in which case the letter would probably, as in the last war, be sent to a University Authority for perusal. Letters in Guaraní, a Peruvian Indian dialect, and in Latin, are reputed to have been passed obviously unread by the German censorship . At an early stage in the war Russian, Ukrainian, Japanese, Chinese, Persian, Armenian, Hebrew, Serb, Lithuanian, Malagasy, Annamese and Eskimo are all read in Berlin. There are also Russian readers at Frankfurt, no doubt on account of the large Russian colony in France. Yugoslav, Serb, Greek, Rumanian, and other Balkan languages, are read in Vienna. Arabic languages are also no doubt read there."

Comment: In discussing certain tendencies of German Censorship to allow statements of facts, the report indicates that "it appears to be a matter of policy with the Germans to allow as free statement of fact and expression of opinion in the mail as is compatible with security." The report further states:

"Presumably objectionable letters are either held or returned to the writers, as comparatively little excision or deletion is seen. In this way not only is the pretense of free expression maintained for propaganda purposes, but disaffected persons may be led to further revelations and, by keeping of records, apprehended. The percentage of indiscretions from Occupied territories is greater than that from Germany itself. This is to a certain extent to be expected. Very free accounts of misery and starvation in Poland have perhaps been allowed in order to induce the sending of food, money and other goods into Germany from abroad. Letters particularly from Norway and Holland, telling of resistance to Nazi rule, of poor living conditions, or air raid damage, of building of roads, bridges, airdromes etc., would presumably not have been forwarded intentionally. It appears either that there are many German examiners not in full sympathy with their government, or not really expert in the languages they read, or that nationals from the various occupied countries, whose aim would naturally be to sabotage German interests, are employed in Censorship. It would be well nigh impossible for the German Censorship to embrace the amount of mail to and from the occupied countries without employing their nationals to read the languages in question."

Comment: At times, especially during April 1943, there has been a steady flow of information coming out of Germany proper. During April, the information was principally based on comments on air raids. A few weeks later after, such reports of the terrible effects of RAF and American bombing of German industrial centers warned that a "pity poor Germany" campaign was under way. It is probable that German Censorship permitted such comments in the mails in an effort to lead Allied circles into the belief that the bombing, rather than destroying industrial centers, were killing old men, women and children, and destroying residential districts, churches and schools.

IV. **Attitude Toward Occupied Countries** - In reference to the attitude of German censorship towards the occupied countries, the British report of December 23, 1942 states as follows:

"Each occupied country is, for censorship purposes, regarded as a separate entity, and mail between one of these countries and Germany is not regarded as internal German mail. The presence of units at Copenhagen, Königsberg, and Oslo may well, in addition to the localized functions of these units in the examination of foreign mails, be connected with the censorship of internal mail within the occupied countries themselves. Mention has certainly been made of internal censorship in Germany and Poland, and more specific references in the case of Norway. The presence of Amt "t" and occasional references in letters to censorship units at Warsaw, Posen, Bremen, Christiansand and other places gives rise to suspicion of internal censorship. The very occasional sorting error in this examination of internal mail which have reached this country have always been examined in Germany. This, of course, is liable to be due to a sorting error before, rather than after, censorship. On more than one occasion, however, where a letter intended as internal mail has been erroneously routed abroad, the text has been such as to make it impossible for any normally intelligent examiner to have passed it knowingly as foreign mail.

Belgium has had normal postal communications with Germany, German-controlled and Neutral countries since August 1940, except, according to statements by several writers, with occupied France, though letters from there have been received in Belgium. Communications with the Belgian Congo are permitted on an official postcard. Extensive fines have been imposed on Belgians for infringement of regulations concerning communications with enemy territory. Correspondence with POWs and Internees in Allied hands must be forwarded through the Red Cross at Aachen. Letters must be written in French, Dutch, Flemish, German or Italian. Newspapers have been allowed to be exported only to occupied France, and no non-German publications other than newspapers may be imported into Belgium. Postage stamps and money in any form may not be sent abroad.

A much more lenient censorship is applied to Denmark than to any other occupied country, and she has apparently always had normal postal communications. Not only has she been able to write to Axis and Neutral countries but at certain times, notably at Christmas, mail has been allowed through to Iceland and the Faroe Islands. Sporadic letters from Denmark to the Faroe Islands, which for some reason have come through during the latter half of 1942, mention official notification by the Danish postal authorities that communications are open between Denmark and Iceland and the Faroe Islands. No arrival of such mail in bulk has confirmed this statement. On such occasions as mail is allowed from Denmark to Iceland, correspondents state that mail arrives more quickly if written in Danish than in Icelandic.

As far as is known, the Czech Protectorate is treated as for Germany proper with regard to mails."

"All that is known about the German attitude toward French mail applies only until November 11, 1942. On July 18, 1940, occupied France was denied all communications except with Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Denmark and Norway. Communication with the Free Zone was allowed on official inter-zone postcards, with Vichy Colonies originally not at all and, later, by these same postcards, and with French sailors abroad on inter-zone cards via forwarding agents in Marseilles. A very limited amount of official and commercial correspondence was allowed to pass between the two zones daily. The Channel Islands have been counted, for mail purposes, as part of the occupied French zone. The provinces of Haut-Rhine and Moselle have been counted as part of the Reich.

In November 1941, communications with Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovokia were re-established. Letters had to be written in German, French, Flemish, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, Hungarian, Romanian, Bulgarian or Slovak. From June, 1942, communications with Finland was allowed, the Finnish language being permitted in addition to those already authorized, and in October communication was first allowed with Sweden.

Certain commercial correspondence was allowed to Spain, as was also mail from Spaniards working in occupied France. No private communication was apparently allowed with Switzerland except on a printed card. Commercial matter could be sent through the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Paris. Even Red Cross Messages could not be sent directly to the International Red Cross. Letters to POWs in Allied hands had to be sent through the German Red Cross at Aachen. Letters up to 20 grams or plain or picture postcards were allowed from German service men to civilians in the occupied zone. Letters from French civilians to German service men could be posted in the normal manner, but had to show the correct military designation and address. Letters to poste-restante addresses were returned to sender. In July 1942 postal packet mail and parcel post were resumed between occupied France and Greater Germany. Only three specified French newspapers could be sent from France directly to Germany.

In spite of penalties of forced labor, imprisonment or death for infringement of regulations concerning postal communications, many ways of evading such regulations have been found. Innumerable letters have been smuggled across the demarcation line. Letters have been sent via the Irish Legation in Paris, and letters from occupied France to the unoccupied zone, or to other places with which communication was forbidden have been sent via intermediaries in Germany or Italy.

The Greek mainland appears to fall mainly under German, and the Aegean Islands mainly under Italian control. There is no communication between Greece and the outside world except through Germany (and Italy). Letters have frequently been smuggled into Turkey from nearby islands, but this is not so easy from the mainland. Letters have, however, been forwarded through German intermediaries to neutral countries, some have been sent through neutral embassies in Berlin, and occasional messages have passed through the German Red Cross. On the whole, very little mail penetrates to the outside world.

Communications between Holland and the outside world have always apparently been fairly good. Communication with Eire was only established in July 1941, and parcel post and letter packet mail with all non-enemy countries was allowed, in common with most other occupied territories, from June, 1942. There are known to be Customs Control Points at Amsterdam and Nijmegen. Letters examined at German censorship units and found to contain money or securities appear to be forwarded to these points for action. A very large volume of intermediary mail to Dutch men serving with the Allies is allowed out of Holland. A large percentage of this was formerly sent via the U.S.A. and it now comes mainly from Portugal and turkey. This extensive intermediary correspondence is no doubt encouraged for its information value."

"Like the French Rhine provinces, Luxembourg is treated, for mail purposes, as part of the Reich.

Censorship of Norwegian mail is much stricter than that for Danish mail. Correspondents have mentioned that internal censorship exists, and that all incoming mail is examined. Very few excised or deleted letters come through from Norway and there is evidence from a reliable source that letters are often returned, with offending passages deleted, to be re-written. Since the entry of the U.S.A. into the war powerful intermediary channel has been cut off, and with the establishment of airmail communications between Sweden and the United Kingdom, avoiding passage of such mail through Germany, thousands of Norwegians have turned to Sweden to act as intermediary for mail coming to Allied countries. Almost every cover from Sweden contains a letter emanating from Norway. The Germans have issued very strict warnings against the use of Swedish intermediaries. There is also a fair amount of smuggling of letters across the frontier to Sweden.

Poland, like Luxembourg and the Protectorate is included in the postal system of the Greater Reich. Since shortly before the attack on Russia, regulations for Poland have been particularly strict. Poles and Jews have been issued with new identity cards and may not write without these. Poles receiving parcels are obliged to hand over part of the contents to German charities. They may only write one letter a month and must use both sides of the paper. For a long time there was no postal communication between the formerly Russian occupied zone and the German zone, but these appear now to have been re-established. From April 1, 1942, parcels up to 20 Kgs. have been allowed to pass between the two zones, but have been subject to customs and export regulations.

Slovakia enjoys the privilege of having her own distinctive censorship, which is reputed to be more lenient than the German Censorship. Although mail from Slovakia is often given a second examination at Vienna, it is frequently allowed to proceed without a second check. Presumably the censorship in Slovakia is under rigid German control.

In the same way as Greece, Yugoslavia comes partially under German, partially under Italian jurisdiction. for a time no communication at all was allowed, and letters addressed to Yugoslavia were returned. From June 1941, mail of all types, including registered letters, trade documents and sample post was allowed between the "ancient Yugoslav provinces" of Lower Styria, Carinthia and Carniola and all non-enemy countries. At the same time normal postal communication was also opened with Croatia, except for postal packets."

V. <u>Routing of the Mail</u> - Knowing how the mail is routed is important for censorship purposes. The British report of December 23, 1942 describes Continental Mail routing as follows:

"All continental mail communication is rapid. there are excellent trans-continental mail routes and from the quick times in transit it would appear that a great deal of mail is carried by air. From Switzerland, for example, mail to the Balkans takes from three to five days, and answers to mail to Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg are received within a week. Mail from Holland and Norway to the U.S.A., before her entry into the war, was usually postmarked at the Berlin, Frankfurt or Cologne sorting offices on the following day. It seems to take about ten days for letters from the Russian front to reach Germany. Since the trans-Siberian route was cut off, communication with Japan has seemingly been impossible, and between the cessation of the Lati airline in December 1941 and May 1942, there was no communication with neutral South America.

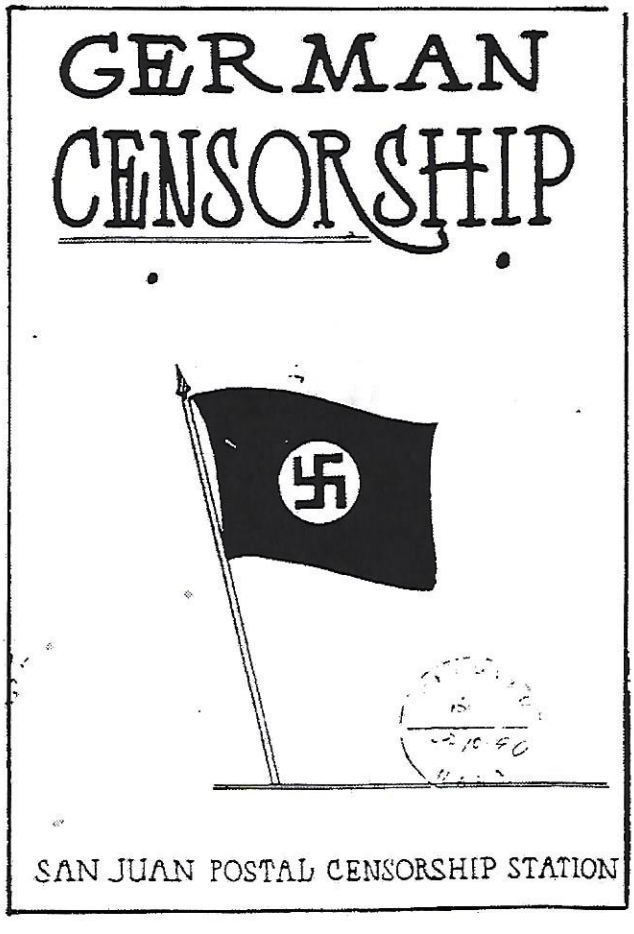
Germany has for some time past systematically examined any mails which normally pass through her territory in transit, and some which should not. Any mails to or from Sweden passing through Germany are examined at Berlin.

"In December 1941 a great deal of money was removed from the U.S.A.-to-Sweden mail and slips were inserted stating that the contents, as enemy securities, had been retained. This is believed later, however, to have been released. A large proportion of mail to and from Switzerland has also been examined in transit. Air mails have been routed sometimes on the Lufthansa line to Lisbon via Stuttgart. These have been examined at Frankfurt. Mail sent by surface route through unoccupied France to Portugal has also been examined by the Germans under pretext of Customs Control on the Swiss border at Annemasse, in unoccupied France. Mails to and from unoccupied France also have been examined in Germany, particularly letters destined for occupied France but returning owing to restricted communications.

Mails from Hungary, Finland and Rumania are examined by the censor authorities in these countries themselves. Finland examined her mail practically 100% but the other two countries not so much. Germany did re-examine mail from the Aaland Islands, but not mail from the Finnish mainland. Latterly, however, she appears to examine all mail from Finland, although previously Finnish-censored. She examines a large proportion of Hungarian and Rumanian mail, both mail allowed out uncensored and that previously examined.

It is interesting to note that any Italian mail routed through Germany, such as mail to Sweden and mails to Portugal sent via Munich, already examined in Italy, are nearly always examined in Germany.

In 1941 a good deal of transatlantic clipper mail passing through Lisbon was sorted by error to Germany, probably not accidentally, and examined there. Since then, there have still been frequent examples of such routing errors. Terminal Spanish and Portuguese mails have also been routed by error and examined in Germany. That such routing errors are common is shown by the fact that the Portuguese Post Office has a special form to be attached to mail arriving in the country irregularly.
The policy of Germany with regard to seized mails appears to be to send them on or return them to sender after examination rather than retain them. Many may be held but a considerable number are forwarded. This is, of course, excellent propaganda."

ED. NOTE: Shown at right is a much reduced copy of the cover which appears on this report on German Censorship from the San Juan Postal Censorship Station. TRSG Director Myron Fox has once again delved into the National Archives and found a winner.

It is also interesting to note that while the Trondheim Censor Office in Norway is specifically identified in this 1943 report, there was no reference to this office in either of the major handbooks on German Censorship which were published in Germany during the early 1960s. JEL