

EAST AFR. BUREAU
52920

52920
REC'D
DEC 19 5 27 1918

76
Person 117

1919
July

of previous Paper.

Circular
Censorship Dept.

Submits replies to questionnaire on work
of, from Chief Censor's Office.
Conf. Dec 8 Nov. '18

General Dept. all

noted.

12.9.18

Copy despatch - encls. original
to W.O. L3

ref to 49383, 18
Jan 19/19
at once

of subsequent Paper.

of subsequent Paper.

No. 137

CONFIDENTIAL

52923

26 July, 1919.

Recd
Aug 12 1919

With reference to Mr. Long's Confidential Circular of the 8th of November, with which was enclosed a questionnaire on the Postal Censorship, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, in duplicate, the replies that have now been received from the Chief Censor's office.

2. I regret the delay in furnishing these replies but it would appear that the papers were mislaid in the Censor's office and overlooked.

I have the honour to be,
Your Lordship's
humble, obedient servant,

[Signature]
GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,
VISCOUNT MILNER, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., &c.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

LONDON

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE SHOWING WORK ETC. OF THE
EAST AFRICAN CENSORSHIP

175

I.

By a General Staff Officer (2) who performs the duties of the Chief Censor for the East African Area viz. B.W.A., Uganda, Conquered Territory (G.E.A.) Zanzibar and Nyassaland.

II.

Officers.....	23.
Civil Officials.....	11.
N.C.Os.	8.
Lady Superintendants (search) clerks etc.....	12.
Interpreters, European.....	4.
" Asiatic.....	12.
" African.....	10.
Other ranks.....	25.

District Political Officers and others have performed censor work as required.

III.

Packets Censored. These are shown separately for the more important censorship stations as conditions varied so greatly that it is not possible to tabulate these together.

IV.

- (I.) (a) Censors are instructed in the simpler methods of detecting invisible writing by chemical methods.
- (b) Examples of likely methods of code are circulated as a guide to what to look for.

In both (a) and (b) letters etc. which cause suspicion are forwarded to Chief Censors Office for further examination when considered necessary. No complicated tests are undertaken, but letters suspected of containing code which cannot be read are either held or rendered innocuous as far as possible.

C.O. 533

212

- (ii). Any packet of this description addressed to persons other than those known to be above suspicion, is opened up and examined.

(NOTE. Censorship requested and obtained local legislation to prevent the import of old newspapers in bulk).

2. No such letters were passed unexamined except to the United Kingdom and British possessions.

3. Consular correspondence was not exempted except when addressed to or coming from Allied Heads of Government Departments. O.H.M.S. letters were passed when bearing a known Frank or Military Office frank.

Unfranked or unstamped O.H.M.S. letters were examined when found.

4. Searching parties were established at the main coast ports with Lady Superintendents and native women searchers attached to such parties. Co-operation with the Customs in addition constituted the best safeguards that could be devised.

Censors in Uganda maintained as strict a watch as possible by search etc. to prevent transmission of undesirable matter by hand carriage on the land side. Occasional train searches were made.

To British prisoners of war in enemy countries, only through the authorized channels.

German Prisoners.

(The regulations as to enemy subjects correspondence have been raised from time to time, but Interned have generally been able to communicate, and Uninterned unable to do so until relaxation of the Reprisal restrictions.)

C.O. 533

212

Bona Fide O.R.M.S. correspondence to or from responsible Officers.

Private correspondence of:-

- Governors of Protectorates.
- Commander in Chief.
- Chief of Staff.

Letters to or from Cabinet Ministers in Great

Britain and self-governing Dominions.

Special Officers and Officials indicated by the

in C. (e.g. The Belgian Commandant etc.)

II.

1. Export. All Press in East Africa subject to close censorship.
2. Warning Lists circulated to all coast Censors containing names of papers to be watched for. Examination of any new papers arriving from overseas not already known to Censors.

III.

The rule adopted was (as far as possible) that:-

no letter or packet when known to emanate from a suspect, or when addressed to a known suspect or suspicious address was passed unexamined even to the United Kingdom.

Reliance was placed on Censors in the United Kingdom, India etc., to detect communications to suspect addresses when such were not known to the E.A. Censorship.

Asiatic correspondence to India, Censor Bombay was asked to note that a complete examination of outward Indian mail was impossible. Inward mail could be all examined.

Samples etc. of labels and stamps latterly in use the E.A. Censorship, attached.

R.S. Hopkins

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference
C.O. 533
212
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
RECEIVED
MAY 10 1945

NOTE.

In the attached returns "Examined" means contents read.
All postal matter was submitted to Censors for inspection.

C.O. 533

212

Reference
No. 100-10000
Date
File No.
Page No.
By
Checked by
Approved by
Special Agent in Charge

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE

III. Packages Censored.

1. Table showing approx. quantity of Mail examined during one month. AT ZIONVILASA.

TERMINAL MAIL

179

I. Letters.

OUTGOING.

Weight in lbs. Examined.

To U.K. and British possessions.	1,000	2%
Neutral Countries.	200	100%
Italy	20	75%
France	25	25%
Egypt (including Somaliland.)	20	50%
South Africa.	700	50%
India.	1,000	10%

INCOMING.

From U.K. & British Possessions.	2,000	5%
Neutral Countries.	400	100%
Italy	20	75%
France.	100	10%
Egypt etc.	20	25%
South Africa.	1,500	20%
India.	750	5%

2. Printed Newspapers.

OUTGOING.

Weight in lbs. Examined.

To U.K. etc.	700	2%
Neutral Countries.	200	100%
Italy	20	10%
France.	20	10%
Egypt etc.	20	10%
South Africa.	1,200	10%
India.	300	75%

INCOMING.

From U.K. etc.	1,700	2%
Neutral Countries.	500	100%
Italy	20	10%
France.	300	10%
Egypt etc.	10	10%
South Africa.	1,500	10%
India.	350	75%

3. Parcels.

OUTGOING.

No. of Parcels.

To U.K. etc.	250	} All parcel lists seen & any suspicious parcels opened.
India.	150	
St. Africa.	200	
Neutral Countries etc.	Not exceeding 10 per month.	All examined.

INCOMING.

From U.K. etc.	2,000	} all parcel lists seen & any suspicious parcels opened.
India.	50	
South Africa.	300	
Neutral Countries etc.	Not exceeding 100 per month.	All examined.
German P. of W. parcels.	very few.	All examined.

Reference
C.O. 533 212

RECORDED
INDEXED
FEB 10 1917
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

Y. Table showing the quantity of mail received during one month.

TERRESTRIAL MAIL

1870

1. Letter Mail.

<u>OUTGOING</u>	<u>WEIGHT.</u>	<u>EXAMINED</u>
To England, Scotland & Wales.	400 lbs.	85%
Ireland.	80 lbs.	25%
Sweden, Norway & Denmark.	24 lbs.	100%
Netherlands.	1 lb.	100%
South Africa.	25 lbs.	80%
Switzerland.	1 lb.	100%
France.	1 lb.	25%
Russia.	1 lb.	100%
Italy.	1 lb.	85%
United States of America.	1 lb.	75%
India & Goa.	500 lbs.	85%
India. (P. of War Letters.)	1 lb.	100%

INCOMING.

From England, Scotland & Wales.	7000 lbs.	85%
Ireland.	100 lbs.	80%
Sweden, Norway & Denmark.	50 lbs.	100%
Switzerland.	1 lb.	100%
France.	2 lbs.	25%
Italy.	1 lb.	85%
United States of America.	2 lbs.	85%
India & Goa.	1250 lbs.	80%
India (P. of War Letters.)	1 lb.	100%
South Africa.	1000 lbs.	80%
Germany (P. of War Letters.)	1 lb.	100%

2. Printed Newspapers.

OUTGOING. Nil.

<u>INCOMING.</u>	<u>WEIGHT.</u>	<u>EXAMINED</u>
From United Kingdom.	2000 lbs.	85%
U.S.A.	500 lbs.	85%
India & Goa.	500 lbs.	25%
Sweden Norway & Denmark	500 lbs.	100%
France & Italy.	50 lbs.	5%
Switzerland.	5 lbs.	100%

3. Parcels

<u>OUTGOING</u>		
United Kingdom.	200 parcels	All parcel lists examined but only a proportion of parcels opened.
India	100	
S. Africa.	50	
Neutral Countries		All examined.
<u>INCOMING</u>		
United Kingdom	5000	
India	100	As above
S. Africa	200	
Neutral Countries		All examined

All letters documents &c to be carried by travellers overseas.

PUBLISHED BY THE
 C. O. 533
 212
 THE
 PUBLIC
 THE
 LONDON

Table showing the quantity of mail examined during 1940
 month of DARKESSIA, EAST AFRICA, CONQUERED TERRITORY.

18

<u>INCOMING MAIL</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE EXAMINED</u>
From Great Britain.	2000 Bags.	100%
" Germany.	10 "	100%
" Switzerland.	5 "	100%
" Other European Countries.	5 "	100%
" America.	5 "	100%
" India.	5 "	100%

<u>OUTGOING MAIL</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE EXAMINED</u>
To Great Britain.	1000 Bags.	100%
" Germany.	50 "	100%
(After lifting of Conscription restrictions in Conquered Territory.)	52,000 Letters & 3 Bags.	100%
Switzerland.		
France & other European Countries.	1 Bag.	100%

All German.

<u>INCOMING MAIL</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE EXAMINED</u>
From Great Britain.	50 Bags.	100%
" Germany.	1 "	100%

<u>OUTGOING MAIL</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE EXAMINED</u>
All	All	All

Letters to and from Military personnel examined under
 Regimental arrangements are not included in above totals, but a
 proportion were always examined.

I A R A.

<u>LETTERS</u>	<u>INWARD</u>	<u>OUTWARD</u>	<u>EXAMINED</u>
	about 1200 lbs.	about 1100 lbs.	100%
To or from	1. Neutral Country.		5%
any destination	2. British Subjects.		10%
	3. Other subjects cor. residence		100%
	4. Other Subjects.		100%
	5. Indian Arabic & Swahili.		50%

<u>NEWSPAPERS</u>	<u>INWARD</u>	<u>OUTWARD</u>
	1100 lbs.	practically nil.

<u>PARCELS</u>	<u>INWARD</u>	<u>OUTWARD</u>
	100 lbs.	50 lbs.

P. P. B. 533 212
 C. O. 533 212
 18

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE

III. Packets Censored.

I. Table showing the approx. quantity of mail examined during any one month at London:

TERMINAL MAIL.

I. Letters.

OUTGOING.

	<u>NO.</u>	<u>EXAMINED.</u>
To U.K. etc.	7 bags.	3%
Neutral Countries.	300 letters.	100%
Allied Countries.	300 bags.	5%
African Ports.	10 bags.	10%
	16 bags.	10%

INCOMING.

From U.K. etc.	10 bags.	3%
Neutral Countries.	300 letters.	100%
Allied Countries.	300 "	5%
India.	15 bags.	10%
African Ports.	18 bags.	10%

2. Printed Newspapers.

OUTGOING.

To U.K. etc.	13 bags	0%
Neutral Countries.	0 "	0%

INCOMING.

From U.K. etc.	20 bags.	0%
Neutral Countries.	(x) 1 bag.	100%
Allied Countries.	(x) 1 bag.	10%
India.	0 bags.	0%
African Ports.	1 bag.	0%

(x) refers to catalogues.

3. Parcels.

OUTGOING.

To U.K. etc.	5 bags.	Nil.
Neutral Countries.	Nil.	Nil.
India.	10 bags.	30%
African Ports.	1 bag.	Nil.

INCOMING.

From U.K. etc.	50 bags.	Nil.
Neutral Countries.	1 bag.	100%
Allied Countries.	1 bag.	Nil.
India.	10 bags.	30%
African Ports.	2 bags.	Nil.

C.O. 533 212

UGANDA

183

Record of receipts not available.

LETTERS

EXAMINED

Neutral Countries.	100%
Allied Countries.	80%
United Kingdom & British Possessions.	5%
Letters of Indians to or from India or adjacent territories.	50%
Letters of Natives of Uganda to places <u>outside</u> Uganda.	25%
Letters to places en route for the Belgian Congo.	25% to 100%

A considerable proportion of censoring is effected on letters addressed to Uganda at stations in adjacent territory.

—000000—

C.O. 533 212
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-18-83 BY 1043 GRS/ML