M. I. 10. - CENSORSHIP SECTION.

ORGANIZATION

The Censorship Section of the Negative Branch was organized to carry on the additional responsibilities imposed upon the Director of Military Intelligence by his appointment as Chief Military Censor. In addition to the control of the entire field of Military Censorship in cooperation with Naval and Postal censorship, various other duties were entailed upon him and referred to this section.

When the appointment was made, it was found that the duties of the Chief Military Censor had never been definitely or formally outlined by higher authority. It was necessary first to make a study of the history of the censorship and of its precedents; second, to deduce from this a list of responsibilities and customs; third, to consider the whole field of censorship with a view to deciding in what further manner the obligations and opportunities for censorial activity might be of help in winning the war; and finally, to prepare a memorandum for the Chief of Staff outlining the situation, stating the deductions, and asking for their authorization as official functions. This was done in a memorandum for the Chief of Staff from the Chief Military Censor, dated August 5, 1918, and approved two days later. Of this memorandum a brief resume follows:

On June 29, 1916, a memorandum for The Adjutant General was issued by the Acting Chief of Staff calling for the establishment in the office of the Secretary of War of a Bureau of Information, whose negative function was "to prevent the spread of false information and to minimize the giving out of information detrimental to the Military interests of the Government." Major Douglas MacArthur, G. S., was placed in charge of the bureau. On June 9, 1917, Brig. Gen. Frank McIntyre, Bureau of Insular Affairs, who had been appointed Chief Military Censor, May 4, 1917, was designated to relieve Major MacArthur of this duty. The title Chief Military Censor was used at least as early as April 25, 1917, when it appeared in a memorandum from Major MacArthur to the Secretary of War.

On the declaration of a state of war with Germany, April 6, 1917, the authority for telegraph and telephone censorship was vested in the President. By an Executive Order of April 28, 1917, published as Bulletin No. 27, W. D., May 8, 1917, the President assumed this authority, and placed the censorship of telegraph and telephone lines in the hands of the Secretary of War.

An Executive Order of Oct. 12, 1917, constituted the Censorship Board and outlined its duties, and the Secretary of War on November 2, 1917, designated General McIntyre as his representative. The Censorship Board, under the Trading With the Enemy Act, established an Executive Postal Censorship Committee with its main office in New York, and branches in various cities and countries.

Press censorship was handled in general under the plan of voluntary censorship drawn up by the Committee on Public Information. Special members of this Committee acted as representatives for publicity of the various heads of departments in giving out information. The Chief Military Censor had a function here in coordinating these announcements and making sure that the publicity given by one department should not expose matters another department considered secret. General McIntyre as Chief Military Censor passed on hundreds of books, articles, pamphlets and pictures, and his representatives on the Border censored communications across the Border, suppressing objectionable matter and turning over to the proper departments information secured. The Border censorship was never very effective, owing to the great number of points necessarily left uncovered and the prejudice against extending domestic censorship to a point far enough back from the Border to prevent evasions. The President on Sept. 26, 1918, however, issued an Executive Order giving permission to establish censorship stations at points of evasion, and a large improvement resulted as soon as it was put into practice. As interrment camps came to be established and filled, a censorship of letters to and from the prisoners became necessary, and this work was delegated to the Chief Military Censor, who established military censors at each camp. About April 1, 1918, the censorship was required of the mail of soldiers on their way to foreign service, and this duty was added to those of the Chief Mail Censor. Cooperation with the censorship of the Expeditionary Force and compliance with the requests of General Pershing were added duties, as was transmittal to military censors of information and requests from various departments. On August 5, 1918, the accrediting of newspaper correspondents and photographers with the Expeditionary Forces was transferred from The Adjutant General's Office to the Chief Military Censor.

On June 11, 1918, the Secretary of War appointed the Chief of the Military Intelligence Branch as his representative on the Censorship Board to succeed Major General Frank McIntyre, who, on July 8, 1918, recommended that all his duties connected with the military censorship be transferred to his successor. This transfer was effected on August 16, just before the reorganization of the Military Intelligence

Branch into a Division, and the appointment of its Chief as a Brigadier General and Assistant Chief of Staff with the title Director of Military Intelligence. G. O. 80, W.D., 1918, constituting the Military Intelligence Division, says of the Director: "He is also the Chief Military Censor."

On August 7, 1918, the memorandum of August 5, outlining the duties of the Chief Military Censor, was approved by the Secretary of War. This memorandum contained the following statement of the activities of the Chief Military Censor.

A. Censorship of Postal matter. (1) By virtue of his membership in the Censorship Board, he has a voice in censorship of all postal matter, including not only newspapers, but also magazines, periodicals, technical journals, trade catalogues, advertisements, and posters, and books of every sort in English or foreign languages entering or leaving the country from or to foreign parts.
(2) In his capacity as Chief Military Censor he has a special duty in connection with soldiers' mail posted on outgoing transports, and with the mail of prisoners of war in internment camps.

B. Censorship of all communications by telegraph, telephone or radio across the Mexican Border. The censorship of cables was delegated to the Navy from the first, and exercised by the Chief Cable Censor.

C. Cooperation with the Committee on Public Information, and the voluntary censorship of the Press.

D. Censorship of photographs, moving and still, official and civilian; taken abroad or about the camps at home; including such pictures as have a wrong effect upon the spirit of our people or are harmful to the prestige of our Allies. This includes the issuing of permits to take pictures or cameras abroad or into camps.

E. Censorship of such other methods of conveying information or propaganda as may be seen to be hazardous to the successful prosecution of the war. This would cover the untimely or improper publication of casualty lists, disasters, the issuance of phonographic records or other devices for evil propaganda. It would cover also the publication, by any means, of dangerous matter likely to reach or aid the enemy if published at home.

For the exercise of the functions of Censorship, a section known as M. I. 10 was organized in M.I.D. about July 8, 1918. This section was later placed within the Negative Branch (Negative Branch Office Memorandum No. 1, Sept. 6, 1918), with Major Rupert Hughes as its Chief. The duties taken over from other sections of M.I.D. and other government offices were as follows:

From Gen. McIntyre's office
- Censorship of press, periodicals, books, etc.
- Censorship of War Department announcements
- Transport mail
- Mexican Border censorship - telephone and telegraph

From the Committee on Public Information
- Issuing of photographic permits
- Censorship of moving pictures
- Censorship of still pictures

From the Adjutant General's Office
- Accreditation of newspaper correspondents
- Accreditation of photographers with A.E.F.
- Its functions in photographic permits

From the War College
- Censorship of official Signal Corps photographs
- Censorship of captions of A.E.F. photographs

From M. I. 1.
- Radio Censorship
- Bulletins and wireless to General Pershing

From M. I. 4.
- Postal Censorship
- Censorship of books and pamphlets
- Censorship of lecturers, propaganda, etc.
- Censorship of War Prisoner's mail

Added
- Censorship of foreign language press
- Clipping Bureau for General Staff.

For the carrying out of these functions the Section was divided into fifteen sub-sections, for which officer and clerical personnel were taken over from other sections of M.I.D. and other government offices; five officers were transferred from M.I. 1., twelve from M.I. 4., one from M.I. 7., twelve clerks from Gen. McIntyre's Office, seven clerks from the Committee on Public Information. The list of sub-sections, with the duties and officer personnel of each, was as follows:

M. I. 10-a. Executive.

Coordination of office work; instruction and assignment of personnel; preparation of instructions and bulletins for field and office; supervision of "Specialties" which have not yet grown into subsections; administration of records, files and supplies; liaison with the boards of experts in the several departments.

Capt. B. Shepard, Chief
Lieut. S. L. Vanderveer

M. I, 10-b. Postal.

Formulation for the War Department member of the Censorship Board of new policies governing censorship of foreign mails; investigation of matters originating with Militery Intelligence Division representatives on the several postal censorship committees; liaison with Post Office Department and Washington City Post Office for Military Intelligence Division; correspondence in connection with comments received from British, French and Cuban postal censorships; investigation of matters originating with liaison officers (Assistants to the Military Attaches) in Great Britain, France and Cuba, operating between the American Legations and the censorships in those countries.

Capt. L. H. Mitchell, Chief
Capt. I. Thomas

M. I. 10-c. Prisoners of War Mail, Transport Mail (New York).

Censorship of mail to and from prisoners of war, transport mail, and mail of Swiss intermediaries; forwarding to proper department of useful information (whether of conditions in enemy or neutral countries), suspicious activities in this country, prison camp conditions here and abroad; maintenance of card catalogue record of all prisoners and their correspondents, as well as records of American prisoners in foreign camps; correspondence with candidates for posts as censors.

Capt. H. W. Thayer, Chief
Lieut. C. Everett
Lieut. F. W. Truscott
Lieut. S. E. Grumman
Sergeant J. F. Parker

M. I. 10-d. Telegraph and Telephone.

Censorship of telegrams and telephone communications crossing the Mexican Border.

Major Carl Kinsley, Chief
Capt. G. E. McLeod

M. I. 10-e. Radio.

Intercepting of radio messages in Spanish or in cipher originating in Mexico; forwarding of such intercepted messages to Director of Military Intelligence for translation or deciphering and transmittal to proper authorities.

Major Carl Kinsley, Chief	)	
Capt. A. Sobey,	)	
Lieut. J. Matter	)	On duty in Washington
Lieut. L. Sutherlin	)	
Lieut. R. D. Carrier	)	
Lieut. C. R. Sullivan	)	On detached duty
Lieut. P. B. Rawley	)	

M. I. 10-f. Press - Newspapers, Periodicals.

Checking of offenders against voluntary press censorship; scrutiny of press for publication of information of military value to enemy, of possible enemy propaganda, and of matter deemed contrary to our military interests; accrediting of correspondents with A. E. F.

Capt. C. D. Ruth, Chief
Capt. B. A. Mattingly
Capt. H. W. Shoemaker

M. I. 10-g. Foreign Language Press.

Censorship of material published in foreign languages in the United States; censorship of foreign language material entering this country.

Capt. Harry L. Haas.

M. I. 10-h. Compilation of Press Comment.

Reading and clipping American newspapers for the purposes of M. I. 4., the Counter Espionage Newspaper Summary and Record Section; preparing Semi-weekly Press Review of editorial comment for transmission to G.H.Q., A.E.F.: preparing Weekly Press Review of editorial comment for transmission to Secretary

of War; reading newspapers for checking publication of articles undesirable and improper from point of view of military censorship, and for ascertaining general spirit of press, reported every three months to the Chief of Staff.

Capt. R. Aldrich, Chief
Capt. G. E. McLeod
Capt. Brewer Corcoran

M. I. 10-i. Books, Pamphlets, Posters, Advertising.

Censorship of all publications other than newspapers and religious and scientific periodicals; reports on advisability of their withdrawal from circulation through the mails or in the camps, or in public libraries; transmittal to other sections of information regarding authors when nature of work suggests suspicious activity; maintenance of record of publications under the ban.

Capt. M. L. Spencer, Chief
Capt. A. S. Roche

M. I. 10-k. Official Photographs (Moving and still).

Censorship of official photographs and captions furnished by Signal Corps; maintenance of records of pictures approved and disapproved; transmittal to Committee on Public Information, Pictorial Section, and Historical Branch of approved pictures; projection and censorship of domestic motion pictures and captions from official sources; recommendations for use of suitable films in positive propaganda.

Capt. James C. Russell.

M. I. 10-l. Motion Pictures (Commercial). (Office in New York.)

Censorship of unofficial motion pictures in cooperation with Customs Intelligence; survey of motion pictures field for offensive or patriotic propaganda; cooperation with other sections in securing information concerning suspicious activities or persons in motion picture field; advance examination of scenarios for objectionable matter to be excised before production.

Capt. J. J. Gleason, Chief
Lieut. J. H. Hecht

M. I. 10-m. Photographic Permits.

Issuance of permits to take photographs about military reservations after investigation of photographers in liaison

with M.I. 3 and M.I. 4; vise of such pictures for purposes of publication and for official use only; cooperation with Military Censor in censoring of official pictures; censorship of unofficial photographs not made on permits and of progress pictures made on prohibited reservations.

Capt. A. C. Tuteur.

M. I. 10-n. Precedents and Legal Aspects.

Recording of precedents established upon rulings obtained from the staff of technical experts which was organized in the various bureaus of the War Department to cooperate with Chief Military Censor.

Capt. B. A. Mattingly.

M. I. 10-c. Miscellaneous, Propaganda.

Censoring of religious denominations, except Catholic; of pacifist publications and organizations, such as National Civil Liberties Bureau and International Bible Student's Association; liaison with Post Office Department, in connection with publications coming within scope of Espionage Law.

Capt. R. J. Malone

M. I. 10-p. Clipping Bureau.

Maintenance of clipping service to serve all sections of M.I.D., Chief of Staff, Purchase, Storage and Traffic Division, Morale Branch, New York Intelligence Office.

Lieut. J. J. McMullin, Chief
Lieut. C. L. Winston

When the activities of M. I. 10 were at their height the personnel numbered over thirty officers and sixty civilian employees. Including the affiliated Postal and Radio officers, enlisted men and civilian employees at various points through the United States, M. I. 10 at high water mark probably embraced a force of three hundred persons.

On November 13, the Secretary of War approved the following memorandum of the Postal Censorship Board:

"Whereas the question of the continuance of the Censorship has been raised, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that the cable, postal, telegraph and telephone censorship shall continue with the following changes only:

"That the voluntary censorship agreement entered into by the Press of the United States shall be discontinued forthwith, and that the press censorship in connection with the postal, cable and land lines censorship shall be discontinued forthwith."

Demobilization began shortly after this, enough officers being retained to handle the decreased amount of work. The telegraph and telephone censorship across the Mexican border was maintained at the instance of the War Trade Board until March 4, 1919. Radio intelligence was still effective at this writing, May 23, 1919, as were also the press review and press clipping sub-sections, which were maintained to furnish a service on matters incident to the Peace negotiations and the process of reconstruction.

POSTAL CENSORSHIP

To assume censorship of the mails was a new experience to the United States Government. The Allies, particularly Great Britain and France, after long experience and observation, had reported that censorship was their most effective means of counter espionage. Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Dansey, General Staff, British Army, in a lecture delivered shortly after our entrance into the war remarked - "There are two more servants of the military intelligence service; postal censorship and the cable censorship. The censor cannot do his work properly unless he is fed by the Intelligence Branch; he does not know what to look for."

It became the duty of the Postal Censorship Subsection to keep the postal censors, who were under the authority of the Post Office Department, informed as to what was of interest to the War Department. In addition it was necessary to refer the information gained through the censorship of mails to the authorities or agencies interested. In consequence the subsection was developed and supervised by officers who had long and varied postal service experience.

In the organization of this service it was necessary to cooperate to the utmost with the censorship services of France and Great Britain. France had taken over the censorship of Swiss mail, leaving to Great Britain the censorship of the foreign over-sea mails to and from Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and other European neutrals. Little or no attention could be given to the Spanish, Mexican, or Central and South American mails except as these reached the nearby neutrals via steamer, in which case the ships were overhauled and taken into London or Kirkwall. The French and British barrier was erected against and confined chiefly to the neutrals adjacent to Germany and her Allies.

The British and French General Staff officers who visited this country, and our own officers abroad, who had served as Military Attaches and observers attached to the British and French armies, were unaminous in declaring that suitable legislation must be enacted immediately upon our entry into the war authorizing censorship of foreign mails. As a result of the untiring efforts of Colonel Van Deman, Chief of the then Military Intelligence Section, Section 3-D of the Trading with the Enemy Act, approved October 6, 1917, provided as follows:

> "(d) Whenever, during the present war, the President shall deem that the public safety demands it, he may cause to be censored under such rules and regulations as he may from time to time establish, communications by mail, cable, radio, or other means of transmission passing between the United States and any foreign country he may from time to time specify, or which may be carried by any vessel or other means of transportation touching at any port, place, or territory of the United States and bound to or

from any foreign country. Any person who willfully evades or attempts to evade the submission of such communication to such censorship or willfully uses or attempts to use any code or other device for the purpose of concealing from such censorship the intended meaning of such communication shall be punished as provided in section sixteen of this Act."

Under authority of the above, the President, in an Executive Order of October 12, 1917, provided further:

CENSORSHIP BOARD

"XIV. I hereby establish a Censorship Board to be composed of representatives, respectively, of the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the Postmaster General, the War Trade Board, and the chairman of the Committee on Public Information.

XV. And I hereby vest in said Censorship Board the executive administration of the rules, regulations, and proclamations from time to time established by the President under subsection (d) of section 3 of the trading-with-the-enemy act, for the censorship of communications by mail, cable, radio, or other means of transmission passing between the United States and any foreign country from time to time specified by the President, or carried by any vessel, or other means of transportation, touching at any port, place, or territory of the United States and bound to or from any foreign country.

XVI. The said Censorship Board is hereby authorized to take all such measures as may be necessary or expedient to administer the powers hereby conferred."

Acting in accordance therewith, the heads of the several departments named, designated members of the Censorship Board as follows:

War Department	Major General Frank McIntyre
Navy Department	Captain David W. Todd
Post Office Department	Robert L. Maddox
War Trade Board	Paul Fuller, Jr.
Committee on Public Information	George Creel

Frederic Bulkeley Hyde, Secretary.

This body was officially titled the Censorship Board. Except for the replacement of General McIntyre by the Director of Military Intelligence, the Board remained the same to the signing of the Armistice.

The Board first met on October 19, 1917 for organization. The Post Office Department representative was made chairman. Immediately it was found that the Board had no funds available for censorship purposes. Mr. Otto Praeger, Second Assistant Postmaster General and

chairman pro tempore, made arrangements to advance funds from a Railway Mail Service appropriation to meet present needs.

It was decided that the United States should censor all mail to and from the United States and Spain and Latin America, including the West Indies. Censorship was actually commenced on November 2, 1917 at 641 Washington Street, New York, the entire eighth floor of this building being turned over for this purpose.

On November 11, 1918, the day of the signing of the Armistice, the United States had censorship stations in operation as follows, the representatives of M.I.D. at each station being named:

New York City:	Captain Ogden Mills (temporary) Captain Robert Goelet (temporary) Captain Benjamin M. Day Sgt. Harold T. Pulsipher.
San Antonio. Substations: Douglas, Arizona Naco " Nogales " Brownsville, Texas Eagle Pass " El Paso " Laredo "	Captain Louis Agostini.
Key West:	Captain Leonard H. Mitchell (temporary) *Captain George L. Darte 1st Lt. John H. Morris Sgt. Charles S. Miller
New Orleans:	*Captain Edward B. Hitchcock 1st Lt. Alvin P. Howard
San Francisco: Substations: San Diego Calexico	Captain Samuel O. Wynne Captain Wm. A. Kenyon (temporary)
Seattle	Captain Frank Frayser
Honolulu	Intelligence Officer, U.S.A.
Manila	Intelligence Officer, U.S.A.
Shanghai	U.S. Postal Agent

* Acted in dual capacity as M.I.D. representative, Postal Censorship Committee and Intelligence Officer

Cristobal, Canal Zone	Intelligence Officer, U.S.A.
San Juan, Puerto Rico	Intelligence Officer, U.S.A.
Port-au-Prince, Haiti	Intelligence Officer, U.S.M.C.

In addition to the above, the work of the American censorship was closely coordinated with that of the British, French and Cuban censorships by liaison officers (assistants to the Military Attaches) located at London, Paris and Havana, respectively. (A report from the representative of M.I.D. in the New York Censorship office, as well as reports from these liaison officers, will be found in the appendix.) Close relations existed with the Canadian censorship station at Vancouver, B.C., through exchange of comments.

Owing to the peculiar position of the United States about 95% of the censorship work done was negative in character and about 5% positive. These terms, negative and positive, are used in the sense used elsewhere in the description of this Division's activities. Most of the mail that needed censorship was of a character that might have caused social unrest, strikes or even possible rebellion in this country. Only a comparatively small number of letters were intercepted which brought positive information concerning the plans of the enemy or neutrals.

In the study of this positive information attention had to be given to the obvious fact that it was the enemy's intention to permit false information to leak through which might result in paralyzing our war effort. Each time Germany had assumed an offensive there was a period of a month or two months, perhaps longer, during which numerous letters trickled through the censorship office describing in heart-rending terms the social unrest and the famine conditions in the Fatherland.

The first problem then that faced American censorship authorities was to close the channel of information to Germany via Spain, or from Germany to the Americas via Spain, Spain being connected with Berlin by wireless. It was vital at our entrance into the war to close up this gap in Germany's news blockade. When this was done the only possible way of communicating with Germany was indirectly through the intermediary of some cover in a neutral country; for example, a German agent in South America would have to direct his mail to some inconspicuous neutral in Scandinavia, Holland, or Denmark. This individual would then transcribe the mail received, which in most cases would appear as a harmless social or business communication, but in reality would contain a code or cipher message, or, in many cases, a message in invisible ink. It was then a simple matter to dispatch the mail to the correct addressee in Germany, either by courier or by the ordinary routine of postal service.

England had a most highly organized and efficient postal censorship. She had extensive chemical laboratories at London and Liverpool, and gave first tests for invisible ink writings to a very large amount of mail

received. The United States early in 1918 organized and maintained large laboratories in New York and Washington and had invisible writing experts at other places. The usual letter paper which is susceptible to invisible ink can be given a minor test without destroying its appearance. This test is simply to show whether or not moistening or some other treatment has been given the paper before the invisible ink message has been added. In case the minor test shows that the texture has been subjected to some unusual treatment, a major test is given, bringing out any possibility of the use of invisible ink. After the major test has been given the appearance of the stationery has been altered to such an extent that it is impossible to restore it to its previous appearance. Practically all mail to and from persons who were on the suspect lists of England, France or America was given a most thorough examination.

The United States, by taking over the censorship of only the Spanish, Latin American and West Indian mail was able to prevent trade relations between the United States and German forwarding concerns in South America. Germany, after the United States entered the war, was particularly anxious to obtain rubber in any form for insulation of electrical devices, and particularly for the construction of electrical apparatus necessary in the assembly of submarines and torpedoes. Hence we find the censorship intercepting unusual orders for such goods as dental rubber, tobacco pouches, rubber soles and heels for shoes, etc. The censorship also intercepted and prevented from distribution tons and tons of German propaganda published by representatives of Germany in Spain for intended distribution in Latin America. Had this propaganda reached its distributing agents in the Western Hemisphere, and been given the distribution intended, it would probably have incited social unrest, rebellions and revolutions, if not war between certain countries in South America, which might have prevented the United States and her Allies from obtaining certain essential munitions from those countries. For example, it was vital that we get our nitrate from Chile.

The censorship also was in no small manner responsible for preventing simultaneous revolutions in Cuba and Mexico. It was intended in Cuba that a revolution should be started in the Province of Oriente with a view to burning the cane fields; while a simultaneous revolution in Mexico would destroy the oil wells in the Tampico fields. This situation became so acute that the United States had stationed at Guantanamo, Cuba, regiment of United States Marines during the entire period of the war. The postal censorship caught correspondence between certain revolutionary leaders in Cuba and an agent sent to the United States to get support for the revolutionary movement.

From the early days of the war M.I.D. cultivated the closest relations with the Post Office Department. Subsection B of M.I.10 acted as liaison with that Department. Its field force of 442 post office inspectors is probably the most efficient and highly organized investigating

agency in the United States Government. In addition, the office of the First Assistant Postmaster General has direct charge of approximately 35,000 post offices and postmasters. An arrangement was in effect whereby Military Intelligence could get a telegraphic report from anywhere in the United States upon request, providing the request was made through the First Assistant Postmaster General.

As an example of the efficiency of this service - and many similar cases might be enumerated - the British were particularly interested in a certain person in a remote town in a corner of Kansas. Several months had been spent in an endeavor to get a report from either an agent of the Department of Justice or of the American Protective League. The inquiry was finally brought to this subsection, and at four in the afternoon the First Assistant Postmaster General sent a wire to the Postmaster at this place. That night a satisfactory report was received, which was available to the Military Intelligence at nine the next morning. The postmaster reported among other facts, that the person had removed to Wichita, Kansas, and his address was given. The same morning the investigation by telegraph was continued to Wichita, and in the afternoon a reply came in which was turned over to the British Liaison Officer.

Notwithstanding its final success, the postal censorship as conducted by the United States suffered from the start on account of the dual responsibility. It was essentially a military matter; the material that was sought after was necessarily of almost exclusive military interest, and yet the operation of, and the direct charge over, postal censorship was given to the Post Office Department. It was in charge of expenditures and personnel, the receipt, examination and dispatch of mails, and of the organization and discipline of the working forces of the censorship. As a result the censorship of mails, purely a war measure, was handled primarily by a civil department which could not see the problem from the War Department point of view.

To the Post Office Department the Censorship presented itself chiefly as a vexatious problem; it was in direct conflict with the prompt handling of the mails, made for confusion, and consequently became almost intolerable. To the War Department, on the other hand, and particularly to Military Intelligence, the thorough and complete censorship of mail was a necessity, and the organization would have been provided to take care of it. In addition, had the censorship been under the War Department there would have been available for service thousands of well trained university men within the draft age, who on account of physical defects were certified for limited service. These men desired to serve in the Army and would have been glad to give their time and education to the cause of censorship but were unwilling to serve the Post Office Department as civilian inspectors of the mail. In the interest of efficient censorship it must be said that the nations in this war that put it completely into the hands of military authorities got the most efficient service.

CENSORSHIP OF PRISONER-OF-WAR MAIL

External History of Subsection.

With the severing of diplomatic relations between the United States and the German Empire, the status of interned German Naval Officers and Seamen was changed; officers and crews of vessels in the German Navy, such as the "Cormoran", the "Geier" and the Kronprinz Wilhelm" and others, which had been in American waters either at the beginning of the war in 1914 or had later put into American harbors and by international rules had been interned there, became, through the abandonment of our neutrality, regular prisoners of war. To their number there were added very considerable numbers of enemy aliens, alien residents of the United States who were apprehended by the Department of Justice, and the crews of interned German merchant ships. These latter prisoners were detained by the Department of Labor and interned at the internment camp conducted by that Department at Hot Springs, N.C.; the camp was transferred to the War Department on July 1, 1918, and the prisoners were removed to the War Prison Barracks, Fort Oglethorpe, in August, 1918.

Upon the organization of permanent internment camps for these different classes of prisoners, it was obviously necessary to supply a method of supervision and censorship of their correspondence, since international agreements and conventions allowing correspondence between prisoners of war and their home countries was recognized. With the exception of a slight variation in connection with letters submitted to the War Trade Board, no difference was made between these two classes of prisoners, the regular Prisoners of War, and the interned enemy aliens. For a time all mail to and from these prisoners was sent to the War College, Washington, for examination before forwarding or delivery. This was, however, only a temporary arrangement.

In August, 1917, four military censors, appointed by the Chief Military Censor, reported at the Army War College and worked there together for several weeks, initiating the formal military censorship of this class of mail. On the basis of the terms of a proposed agreement between the governments of the United States and Germany governing postal privileges extended to prisoners of war, rules and regulations for the control of mail of prisoners of war were formulated, and officially promulgated on September 7, 1917.

The work of the office at the War College was carried on for a time by four censors aided by several translators, catalogers and typists. About the middle of September, 1917, three censors, First Lieutenants E. E. Cochran, A. W. Porterfield and M. C. Burke, received orders to report respectively to the Commandants at War Prison Barracks, Fort

Douglas, Utah, Fort McPherson, Georgia, and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, to take up the work in the censor's office in the prison camps. The supervision of the office at the War College, which afterward became a subsection of M.I. 10, was left in charge of First Lieutenant, later Captain, Harvey W. Thayer, who remained chief of the subsection. As required, the office forces were increased, the personnel of the officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, being as follows: First Lieutenant Charles Everett, March, 1918; First Lieutenant Fred W. Truscott, July, 1918; Second Lieutenant S. Ellsworth Grumman, September, 1918, and Sergeant J. Floyd Parker, August, 1918. This force had the assistance of one translator, and a body of typists and cataloguers. Additions to the forces at the different War Prison barracks were also made, largely on the recommendation of the central office, which handled a large part of the correspondence concerning these censorship appointments. Several of the appointees worked for a time in this office before reporting to the Commandant at the War Prison Barracks; this training was deemed a valuable, if not essential experience before the work at the prison camps began.

The early status of the censor's office at the War College would seem to have been, in part at any rate, that of a separate organization, cooperating with the Military Intelligence Section and working under the official control of the Section, but at the same time subject to the orders of the Chief Military Censor, to whom recommendations for added censors, proposals for additions to censorship rulings, modifications of existing rules and the like were submitted.

At the time of the removal of the Military Intelligence Section to 15th and M Streets, the censorship office was given a definite position as a part of M.I. 4. Later, when M.I.10 was organized the work was transferred to the new section and the censorship of the mail of Prisoners of War became the function of a subsection of M.I.10.

In August, 1918, the chief of the subsection presented a memorandum to the Director of Military Intelligence (Chief Military Censor) concerning the advisability of transferring the subsection to New York, to be stationed there in a relationship of cooperative proximity to the forces of the Executive Postal Censorship Committee. It was felt that this proximity would be of advantage in many ways. In the first place, the Postal Censorship in New York controlled a vast majority of all the mail entering and leaving the country. It has an extensive machinery for the investigation and censorship of mail, and for the recording and disseminating of information derived from intercepted correspondence. In New York the acquisition of both expert and clerical assistance promised to be much easier. The censorship of mail in unfamiliar languages would be much more satisfactory, since the number of readers in various languages for these scattering letters in unfamiliar tongues would be nearly limitless there, and the process of censorship

would be satisfactorily simplified since readers would be on the same floor with the military group of the subsection. The removal seemed to promise a great improvement in the method of handling American prisoner of war mail, since it would be possible for both the incoming and the outgoing mail of this class to be examined in the same place, a condition which was thought to be highly desirable. The subsection was removed to New York on November 1, 1918, occupying quarters with the Postal Censorship Committee at 641 Washington Street.

Rules and Methods.

One chief function of the subsection was the interpretation of the rules for the control of mail of prisoners of war. As noted above, a set of regulations was formally adopted September 7, 1917. After that date this office recommended various emendations, additions or changes in these regulations. In other cases the subsection gave advice as to the scope and interpretation of the regulations as adopted.

The various changes made in these regulations can hardly be said to represent an alteration of fundamental principles of censorship. It was, however, found in experience that many points were inadequately covered by the first rulings; many cases arose which involved unforeseen variations of established principles. This did not involve, in general, either an abrogation or an extension of privileges, but that certain slight additions were made to the prisoner's quota of monthly correspondence as represented by the original rules, such as letters to express companies or postal authorities about lost parcels, letters to Relief Committees written by individuals on behalf of the whole community, letters to the Alien Property Custodian, and the like. A second revision seemed necessary in the case of control of telegraphic privileges of war prisoners.

In connection with this service, the office collected material with reference to the postal conditions in the War Prison Camps in Europe and elsewhere. For conditions obtaining in the prison camps of Germany, information was taken mainly from the reports of the American officials attached to the American Embassy in Berlin, or of consular officers; these reports were made to Mr. Gerard, American Ambassador in Berlin, and forwarded by him to the American Ambassador in London, who in turn transmitted them to Sir Edward Grey. Other reports concerning conditions in British camps came from the American Embassy in London; this information dated primarily from a period previous to the entrance of the United States into the War, but it was of value in determining precedents in usage in handling the mail of war prisoners.

The following is a copy of the "statement" containing a proposal of the United States Government for certain privileges to be extended to German prisoners in this country provided the German Government were

willing to grant reciprocal privileges. This document was made the basis of the regulations adopted September 7, 1917, a copy of which follows after the "statement", together with the various modifications and additions made later and some of the more important interpretations which in their application resemble formal rulings.

a. Rules for the Control of Mail of Prisoners of War.

STATEMENT

PRIVILEGES EXTENDED TO PRISONERS OF WAR AS REGARDING LETTERS, MONEY ORDERS AND PARCELS BY POST.

The United States Government is willing to grant to German prisoners of war, the following privileges, as regards letters, money orders and parcels by post, with the proviso that the German Government will grant reciprocal privileges under similar conditions to the American prisoners of war of the same class.

1. That the inquiry office for prisoners of war shall enjoy the privilege of free postage.

2. That as to letters:

(a) To be written in pencil or ink on one side of paper only. Prison authorities obligated to furnish paper where paper presented is rejected.

(b) To be written in any one of the following languages: English, German, French, Russian, Polish, Danish, Italian, Greek, Belgian, Turkish, Hungarian and Slavic.

(c) To be written by the prisoners themselves, except that where unable to do so through lack of education, sickness or wounds, the letter may be written by and must be countersigned by a fellow prisoner.

(d) All prisoners of war shall be entitled to write two letters each month, in the case of officers not to exceed six pages of ordinary letter size paper, and in the case of non-commissioned officers and privates, not to exceed four such pages. Prison authorities reserve the right to address the envelope.

(e) Every prisoner of war shall have the right to communicate with the diplomatic representative of his protecting power; such communication to be delivered to the diplomatic representative in question within a reasonable time, provided they contain no information contrary to the sense of Article 2(g) of this agreement, and not to count in the monthly allowance.

(f) Letters must be written in plain hand, without cipher, codes, marks, or stenographic notes, and must be addressed directly to their destination.

(g) Correspondence must be confined to personal and business matters, and must not contain information regarding the political situation, naval and military operations or the national safety or defense, or complaints of ill treatment, except that in the authorized letter to the diplomatic representative of the protecting power, complaints as to rations, clothing and treatment are permissable. Enclosures may be permitted provided they accord with the sense of this article, such enclosures of necessity to delay the delivery of the letter.

(h) Letters intended for or despatched by prisoners of war to and from their home country shall be exempt from all postal duties. Where letters are permitted despatched for domestic points they are subject to the domestic rates of postage, except that letters of a personal nature and on family affairs from prisoners of war of close relation, such as father, son or brother, may pass between places of internment free from all postal duties.

(i) For disciplinary reasons, postal privileges may be denied a prisoner of war for a period not to exceed four consecutive weeks in each two months. In all such cases the prisoner shall have an opportunity, in at least one letter, to inform his relatives of this restriction, and shall also have an opportunity to inform the diplomatic representative of the protecting power as to the reason for and length of this restriction.

(j) When transferred to military or civil prisons, prisoners of war shall have the same privileges as when in barracks or camps.

(k) The military authorities reserve the right to delay all mail ten days.

3. That as to post cards:

(a) Prisoners of war shall be allowed to send one postal each week. Cards acknowledging the receipt of parcels not to count in this allowance. The prison authorities reserve the right to adopt a card of their own choosing.

4. That as to telegrams:

(a) Prisoners of war shall not be allowed to send or receive telegrams from their home country except in urgent cases and then only with the concurrence of the prison authorities.

5. That as to money orders:

(a) Money orders intended for or despatched by prisoners of war from and to the prisoner's home country shall be exempt from the ordinary fee, and shall be negotiable at the current rate of exchange. Prisoners of war shall at all times retain the right of sending such money orders to their dependents. Domestic money orders, when permitted, shall be subject to the ordinary fees.

6. That as to mail parcels:
(a) Mail parcels shall be permitted up to twelve (12) pounds.
(b) Articles transmitted by parcel post must be without C.O.D. charges, and are subject to the regular parcel post dues, except that parcels transmitted through military authorities, or authorized relief societies, shall be transmitted without parcel or postage dues.

7. That as to shipments of prisoners or war:
(a) No C.O.D. deliveries will be made.
(b) Boxes or packages with a declared value of less than $2000.00 will be allowed.

8. Prisoners of war transferred to Military or Civil prisons to have the same privileges as to money orders, mail parcels, and shipments as are secured by this agreement to their fellow prisoners of war in barracks and camps.

9. That all postal traffic between the United States and Germany under this agreement shall be through the Postal Authorities of _____ whose consent thereto has been given.

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF MAIL OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

September 7, 1917.

The terms of the proposed agreement between the Governments of the United States and Germany, governing postal privileges extended to prisoners of war, are taken as a basis in drafting the following regulations until the final draft of agreement is approved.

REGULATIONS

1. All correspondence must be written and addressed in dark ink. The use of pencil or pale ink is prohibited.

2. Prisoners are allowed two letters a month, and one postal a week; cards acknowledging receipt of parcels not to count in this allowance.

3. Prisoners should write on only one side of the letter paper, and not on the illustration side of post cards.

4. Officers' letters should not exceed six pages of ordinary letter size paper, and letters of others should not exceed four such pages. By ordinary letter size is meant the size of the standard paper furnished by the prison authorities.

5. Letters and post cards must be legibly addressed and bear the name, number and place of confinement of the writer on the letter head and on the outside of the envelope of letters, and on the correspondence section of post cards. The following form should be followed at the beginning of each letter:

Fort.....
Date.....
From..... No.....
To.....
Address.....

6. All mail must be written in plain hand without either cipher, codes, marks or stenographic notes, and must be addressed directly to its destination.

7. Writing along margin and cross writing are prohibited. Lines must be well spaced.

8. Correspondence may be written in any of the following languages: English, German, Russian, Polish, Danish, Italian, French, Greek, Flemish, Turkish, Hungarian and Slavic. The use of English or German will expedite the despatch of the mail.

9. Letters should not be sealed.

10. (a) Stamps should not be attached to letters and post cards intended for the home country, as postage for such is not required.

(b) Letters for domestic points are subject to domestic rates of postage, except that letters of a personal nature and on family affairs between prisoners of war who are closely related, such as father, son or brother, may pass between places of internment free from all postal duties.

11. The military authorities reserve the right to delay all mail ten days.

12. Correspondence must be confined to personal and business matters, and must not discuss the political situation or naval and military matters.

13. Complaints and criticisms must be forwarded to the diplomatic representative of the protecting power (The Swiss Minister), and these communications will not count in the monthly allowance.

14. Prisoners must not act as correspondence agents for third parties, but, in cases where the prisoner is unable to write, through lack of education, sickness or wounds, the letter (or post card) may, with the permission of the censor, be written by a fellow prisoner and must be countersigned by the latter.

15. Enclosures will not be permitted that conflict in any way with the spirit of these regulations.

16. Prisoners of war shall not be allowed to send or receive telegrams from their home country except in urgent cases, and then only with the concurrence of the prison authorities.

17. Money orders intended for or despatched by prisoners of war from and to the prisoner's home country shall be exempt from the ordinary fees, and shall be negotiable at the current rate of exchange. Prisoners of war shall at all times retain the right of sending such money orders to their dependents. Domestic money orders, when permitted, shall be subject to the ordinary fees.

18. (a) Mail parcels shall be permitted up to twelve (12) pounds.
(b) Articles transmitted by parcel post must be without C.O.D. charges and are subject to the regular parcel post dues, except that parcels transmitted through military authorities, or authorized relief societies, shall be transmitted without parcel or postage dues.

19. (a) No C.O.D. deliveries will be made.
(b) Boxes or packages with a declared value of less than $2000.00 will be allowed.

20. For disciplinary reasons, postal privileges may be denied a prisoner of war for a period not to exceed four consecutive weeks in each two months. In all such cases the prisoner shall have an opportunity in at least one letter to inform his relations of this restriction, and also have an opportunity to inform the diplomatic representative of the protecting power as to the reason for and length of this restriction.

Changes in the REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF PRISONERS OF WAR MAIL, together with Interpretations and Recommendations in Connection with the Same.

Delay of outgoing mail.	October 4, 1917. Ruling in connections with Regulation 11. "It is the order of the military authorities from now on to exercise this right over all outgoing mail, that is, all outgoing mail must be kept ten days before it is given to the postmaster to despatch to its destination."
Official Letters and War Relief Letters.	October 11, 1917. "At the discretion of the censor, German Officers may be permitted to write letters of an official nature in answer to inquiries concerning

	former members of their crews, etc., in addition to the weekly allowance. These letters should be strictly confined to statement of fact, whereabouts of the sailors, etc., and should not contain anything of the nature of the correspondence. The Censors should take particular note of these letters." "Letters to the Prisoners of War Relief Committee in New York in behalf of the entire community should not be counted against the allowance of the men delegated to write; such letters can be classed like the post cards acknowledging the receipt of packages."
Postage to points outside the Central Empires.	October 11, 1917. Interpretation and ruling concerning Regulation 10(b). This Regulation by its wording covers only "domestic points": it was ruled that this Regulation be extended to cover all points outside the Central Powers.
Letters between Relatives in the Internment Camps.	October 20, 1917. Ruling of the Adjutant General with reference to Regulation 10 (b), which provided that "letters of a personal nature and on family affairs between prisoners who are closely related, such as father, son, or brother, may pass between places of internment free from postal duties." The Adjutant General reports that the postal authorities have refused to agree to this extension of the granting of free postage to prisoners of war and recommends that the proviso be omitted.
Weight of Parcels.	October 20, 1917. Ruling with reference to Regulation 18(a). The Adjutant General recommends as follows: "To insure uniformity with the regulations of other countries, it is recommended that the word eleven be substituted for the word "twelve".]
Telegrams.	November 7, 1917. Recommendation by the Chief, Military Intelligence Section, to the Chief, Military Section.

In place of Regulation 16, which reads: "Prisoners of war shall not be allowed to send or receive telegrams from their home country except in urgent cases, and then only with the concurrence of the prison authorities;"

Substitute the following: "Prisoners of war are not permitted to send messages by telegraph. However, in cases of great urgency, an exception may be made and the privilege granted, but only with the express consent of the War Prison Barracks, who will decide in each case whether the matter is sufficiently imperative to warrant such action."

Swiss Legation Mail.

November 13, 1917. The following rule was promulgated by the office of The Adjutant General, at the suggestion of the Chief, Military Intelligence Section:

"Outgoing mail addressed to the Legation of Switzerland, which deals with matters properly under the jurisdiction of Switzerland as protecting power, will not be held ten days, but will be despatched at once after examination."

Letters to Express Companies or Postal Authorities.

February 28, 1918. "Letters or postcards addressed to express companies and postal authorities, containing inquiries concerning missing or lost parcels, will not count in the prisoner's monthly allowance."

Letters to Alien Property Custodian.

March 22, 1918. "Letters written by prisoners about their business affairs to the Property Custodian will not count in the prisoner's monthly quota."

Letters to War Relief Committees.

May 22, 1918. "It has been the practice of the censor's office at the War Prison Barracks to detain the letters to the Prisoners of War Relief Committee, 24 North Moore Street, New York City, for a period of ten days, as is required for all mail except that especially privileged. It would seem that these letters might be forwarded at once, since they are frequently concerned with cases of relief where promptness of communication is desirable, and, in addition, the work of the Committee has re-

cently come under the general supervision of the Swiss Legation, hence, the letters might, in this particular, be classed as Legation letters. This change in the ruling hitherto observed is hereby sanctioned."

Books sent to prisoners.

July 25, 1918. "Prisoners may receive books only when the same have been ordered from the publishers either directly or through a bookseller, and are sent by the publishers."

Newspapers and periodicals.

July 25, 1918. "Prisoners may receive newspapers and periodicals only when a regular subscription has been made, either through the publishers or through an authorized agency, and such newspapers and periodicals must be sent directly to the prisoners by the publishers or by the agency. The subscriptions should be under the supervision of the Commandant of the War Prison Barracks."

Business communications.

August 16, 1918. "Whereas all prisoners of war and interned enemy aliens are classified as 'enemies' in respect to matters of trade, it is necessary that, so far as it is requested by the Bureau of Enemy Trade, War Trade Bureau, all communications of a business or financial nature which pass to and from prisoners in the War Prison Barracks and correspondents outside should be examined by that Bureau for license or refusal of license.

Hence, it is hereby directed that all letters written in the War Prison Barracks, or addressed to them, which as a whole or in part are concerned with business or financial matters, in which business or property interests are discussed, whether or not an actual business transaction is proposed, should be sent to this office, for examination and transmission to the War Trade Board; it is, however, to be understood that this ruling does not apply to letters of this type written by actual prisoners of war to persons in enemy country or addressed to prisoners of war from persons in enemy country. The term 'prisoners of war' is here to be distinguished from 'interned enemy alien' and refers only to those persons who were actually in the armed forces of an enemy nation before their detention by the

	United States. Further, commercial letters from enemy country to interned aliens which state for the information of the interned enemy alien that a transaction has been or will be carried out over which the interned alien has no control, need not be sent to the office."
Length of Letters.	December 13, 1918. "Officers' letters should not exceed six pages of ordinary letter size paper and letters of others should not exceed four such pages twenty two (22) lines to the page. By 'ordinary' letter size is meant the size of the standard paper furnished by the prison authorities."
Temporary Loss of Postal Privileges as Disciplinary Measure.	December 13, 1918. "For disciplinary reasons, postal privileges may be denied a prisoner of war for a period of not to exceed four consecutive weeks in each two months. In all such cases the prisoner shall have the opportunity, in at least one letter, to inform his relatives of this restriction, but in such letters he must state the reason for such restrictions; further, the prisoner shall also have an opportunity to inform the diplomatic representative of the protecting power as to the reason and length of this restriction."

b. Rules Governing Censors.

At the same time that the foregoing Regulations were adopted, a set of rules for censors stationed at the different War Prison Barracks was prepared and became operative at the time when the military censors reported at the War Prison Barracks, Forts McPherson, Oglethorpe and Douglas. These regulations were subjected to various revisions, alterations and interpretations until they assumed the form given below, embodying the procedure in censors' offices at the War Prison Barracks, as developed by experience, and representing the methods by which the central office was supplied with information.

REGULATIONS FOR CENSORS
(Revised)

1. The censor should,in cooperation with the commanding officer of the camp, make every effort to enforce the regulations governing the prisoners' correspondence.

2. The censor should try to organize a committee of prisoners to facilitate the distribution of mail, and through whom requests, suggestions and complaints regarding the mail should come in writing. If of sufficient importance these should be referred by the local censor to the Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division.

3. All war prisoners' mail, including that to the diplomatic representatives, special delivery or registered, and telegrams, is subject to examination.

4. (a) Mail matter in a language which the local censor is unable to read should be forwarded to the Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division, Washington.

(b) Mail that is objectionable because of prohibited discussion, complaints or improper remarks will be returned to the writer. If it is incoming mail, it will be forwarded to the Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division.

(c) All suspicious or questionable mail, including that bearing indications of code or invisible writing, or language that is not clearly understood, will be forwarded immediately to the Military Intelligence Branch for further examination, accompanied by a statement of the reason for transmission.

(d) Mail containing information of value to the Military Intelligence Branch of the Executive Division will be forwarded to that office, giving special attention to incoming mail.

5. Objectionable matter should not be deleted by pen, pencil or scissors, but returned or forwarded in accordance with regulation 4.

6. The prisoners may, at the discretion of the censor, be informed that the use of Latin characters will facilitate the despatch of their mail.

7. A card catalog of the prisoners' correspondence is to be maintained in the censor's office: (a) A separate card is to be made out for every prisoner who sends or receives communications by post or telegraph, or packages by express or parcel post, except to or from Germany and Austria Hungary. (b) A separate card is to be made out for every person who communicates with prisoners of war or receives communications from them, with the exception noted under (a). (c) Upon each card the names of all persons are to be recorded with whom the person represented by the card corresponds, sending and receiving. (d) Upon all cards the dates of the first correspondence, both sending and receiving, should be entered. Later correspondence need be entered only when there is change of address or when the correspondence is in some way subject to special comment.

8. (a) Records of all postal transactions, except with the Central Empires, will be sent weekly by the local censors on a prescribed form to the Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division. These reports should include all letters and postcards, all packages, money orders or other financial transactions, and all telegrams, both incoming and

outgoing. These reports will consist of two lists of names and addresses with date, i.e., mail sent by the prisoners and mail received at the post for delivery to them.

(b) Records of all outgoing mail may be made by especially appointed prisoners who bring the mail each day from the barracks to the censor's office, bringing with it a list of the same, consisting of names of prisoners and of correspondents with the addresses of the latter. These lists can be verified by the censors, and at the end of the week re-copied into one complete alphabetical list, which, when typewritten with carbon copies, would form part of the weekly report. In case clerical assistance in the censor's office is inadequate, the daily lists may forwarded to the Military Intelligence Branch as part of the weekly report.

(c) In all reports the addresses of correspondents may be omitted except in the case of new correspondents, or when the address is a new one, or when the address represents a change from the place of the last recorded correspondence.

(d) For all outgoing mail the dates on the record sheets are sufficient; for incoming mail, the date of reception in the censor's office should be supplied.

(e) The reports should present the mail handled for the week ending Saturday night and should be sent to the Military Intelligence Branch as soon as possible thereafter.

(f) Letters sent to the Military Intelligence Branch should be accompanied by a list containing a statement of the reason for this action.

9. Incoming and outgoing mail of each prisoner should, as far as practicable, be read by the same censor.

10. Outgoing letters or postcards that are returned or held by the censor may count in the prisoner's quota.

11. Letters in the incoming mail with incomplete signatures or addresses should not be delivered to the prisoners until the censor has ascertained the full name and address of the correspondent.

12. Recommendations for changes in the censorship regulations should be forwarded through the commanding officer of the camp to the Military Intelligence Branch.

c. Negative Aspects of Censorship.

This work of censoring Prisoner of War Mail began with the censorship of mail to and from German and Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war in this country. The number of these prisoners increased to between five and six thousand. The Regulations for the Control of Prisoner of War Mail permitted this number of prisoners to write between thirty thousand and forty thousand

letters and postcards per month and no limit was set to the amount of mail which they might receive. As a matter of record, it may be noted incidentally that the prisoners in the aggregate did not use the full quota of mail allowed them; the regular prisoners of war in Fort McPherson, for example, wrote far less than the rules permit. This mass of correspondence was censored either by the military censors at the War Prison Barracks or in the Washington office of the Military Intelligence Division. The work of the censors at the War Prison Barracks was supervised by the central office in Washington.

Some functions of this censorship, some principles and methods, were established at the outset. Others were developed in the process of experience. The first function of the censorship was to prevent the passing of objectionable material, - in other words, to prevent letters or other correspondence from passing to their destination, within the War Prison Barracks or without, which contained material derogatory to the United States Government or its officials; material of such a nature as to give, through criticism or interpretation, any aid or comfort to the enemy, or information which could be of value to the enemy, either collectively or as individuals. The watchfulness of the censorship forces was, further, constantly exercised in preventing the prisoners from acting as correspondence intermediaries, that is, from transmitting messages from Germany to residents of this country, or from the United States to Germany.

This general phase of censorship was primarily negative. Its method was either to return objectionable letters to the prisoners to be rewritten, or, when of particular interest, to forward them from the War Prison Barracks for the inspection of the Washington office, where deletions were made; objectionable incoming letters were regularly sent to the Washington office for appropriate attention and deletion. To this negative, or preventative, phase of censorship belonged the effort to discover and prevent the use of secret communication in various forms. The subsection selected the kind of paper to be used by the prisoners in their correspondence with a view to obtaining a type of paper upon which writing with the varied kinds of secret inks would be difficult or impossible. The office submitted thousands of letters, both from and to prisoners, to the chemical investigation for invisible inks. Hundreds of communications which aroused suspicion because of peculiar wording or of unusual markings, were tested for possible code. One prisoner endeavored to arrange for secret communication with his wife by writing in lemon juice under the flap of the envelope; codes were found in the possession of several prisoners; and a scheme was discovered at Fort Douglas to communicate by means of dots placed under the letters of words in newspapers sent into the compound.

d. Mail of Civil Prisoners.

The mail of one special class of prisoners would seem to deserve particular mention, that of certain alien enemies held for trial or undergoing trial for crimes against the Government previous to the entrance of the

United States into the war. These were primarily those concerned with the so-called Hindu plot, notably former German Consul Bopp, Vice-Consul von Schack, and Attache von Brincken, San Francisco, and those associated with them. While awaiting trial and undergoing trial, these civil prisoners were allowed the correspondence privileges of prisoners of war, and all, or nearly all, of their correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, was sent to the Washington office for censorship. For the time being this office did not question this granting of correspondence privilege, but after the conviction of the prisoners, the office called the attention of the Department of Justice to the situation, and after an expression of opinion on the part of the Adjutant General's office and the Judge Advocate General, it was decided that the particular privileges of prisoners of war were forfeited when the prisoners in question were convicted of civil crimes; they have the same privileges as other prisoners in federal penitentiaries.

Information Derived from Prisoners' Correspondence.

1 (a) Counter Espionage - Suspects.

The acquisition of information from the correspondence of prisoners was the second function of the office. The subsection maintained a card catalog of all prisoners in the War Prison Barracks with details concerning age, home address, emergency address, occupation, dates of arrest and internment, and the like. This catalog was in constant service, supplying information to various sections of M.I.D. A card catalog was also kept of the postal transactions of the prisoners, covering practically all of their correspondence, both sending and receiving, except that with correspondents in the Central Empires; records were kept of this latter correspondence only when the letters seemed to be worthy of note. Reports sent weekly from the different War Prison Barracks supplied the material for these catalogs.

From these catalogs it was possible to ascertain the name and address of every person or firm in the United States, in allied or neutral countries, who received letters from the prisoners or communicated with them; the extent of such correspondence, as well as the dates of the individual letters, was thus made available as possible evidence in counter espionage work. The letters written by residents of this country, whether natives or aliens, or by the prisoners to them, were examined with a view of establishing the nature of the relationship between the prisoner and those outside. The sentiments of the outside correspondents were noted and record kept when there was a suspicion of hostile or disloyal utterances. The attention of various officers in charge of different departments was frequently called to residents of the United States, whose correspondence with the prisoners seemed to indicate that they favored the German cause, particularly when the expression of their sympathy was such as to suggest that on occasion they might be led to act contrary to the interests of the United States. In this way close watch was kept on correspondence of many individuals, often appearing for a time with great frequency in our files as they aroused suspicion, and then disappearing after investigation was made. That a very large part of this work was negative in its results, if by "positive" we mean only those cases where the enemy

sympathizer was actually interned, does not, it would seem, detract materially from the value of the service rendered by this phase of the work. In addition to the investigation of prisoners' correspondence, it may be noted that the office examined hundreds of documents, portfolios and the like, taken from prisoners at the time of their internment, or found among their effects.

The method employed by this office was to supply bits of information singly or collectively to officers by whom investigation was to be made. Except as a continued inspection of the prisoner's correspondence might add further information, this office usually did not continue investigation after passing the information into the hands of the appropriate officer. Whatever work was done afterwards appears in other chapters of the History of the Military Intelligence. The additions to the Suspect List from this source were fairly numerous; knowledge of the presence of enemy sympathizers in any community, particularly if that sympathy was sufficiently vigorous to be embodied in a communication to a prisoner of war, was of a distinct value, a value which did not cease with the passing of hostilities. Some of the more prominent personages whose correspondence seemed to merit attention may be here mentioned.

The cases of Mrs. Clothilde von Kretschmann and of Mrs. Ambrose White Vernon seemed important. Both were the wives of American citizens and hence themselves technically American citizens, but they displayed an ardent devotion to the German cause. The former was suspected of connection with Mme. Victorica, who bore the same last name.

The correspondence of the Vietor family, Granite, Virginia, was for months under special investigation. E. K. Vietor was formerly German Consul at Richmond, Virginia. Considerable material was supplied concerning the business relations of this prisoner. From the correspondence of the family it was also demonstrated that they were receiving mail with some frequency from Germany. Information on this point was supplied to postal officials and to the Department of Justice for investigation.

Through correspondence addressed to the prisoners, the office was enabled to ascertain the whereabouts of Paul Niebaum and Gustav Hartwig, who escaped from the War Prison Barracks, Fort Oglethorpe, on the night of September 15-16, 1917, and found their way to Mexico, also of the death of G. Hentschel, who escaped with them. Information was also gained as to certain friends of theirs in New York who knew of their escape and possibly aided them in reaching a neutral country.

A letter purporting to be from an official of the Insular Police, Porto Rico, to Alfred Koester, San Juan, Porto Rico, and remailed to the War Prison Barracks, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, at first seemed to indicate that this government official had arranged to facilitate the escape of Koester at the time when he was detained in San Juan awaiting transfer to the United States: "I had and still have a man from the

Guard with a boat ready to take you to San Pedro de Macori as we had arranged in order that you might catch a Spanish steamer from there as you were informed by the captain of the steamer 'Manuel Calvo.' Nevertheless, I still believe you will be able to escape, and if you should return here, you may count on my having everything ready..... I gave $58.00 to the man of the Guard." This proved, upon investigation, to be a "frame-up" against the official.

Close watch was kept on the correspondence of Minnie Deckman, Salt Lake City, who was reported to be a German spy; she appeared to be the fiancee of Ernst Leybold, a prisoner in Fort Douglas, and resided in Salt Lake City as a student in the University of Utah, obviously to be near him. In accordance with the regulations in force at the War Prison Barracks, she was permitted to visit him at stated times, and was reported to have misused her privileges in acting as an intermediary. After this she passed into the hands of the Department of Justice.

The activities of the League of German Naval Engineers were observed for months, and a report prepared upon it; this organization had branches in ports throughout the world, notably in South America, and through an office in Vigo, Spain, the engineers were endeavoring to continue the work of the League even during the time when most of the members were interned. After investigation, the correspondence, as far as this country was concerned, was stopped.

Prisoners' letters and letters addressed to prisoners frequently contained information as to the whereabouts of their effects, particularly to trunks and boxes, enabling this office to notify the agents of the Department of Justice in order that investigation might be made, in case these effects had not already been examined.

Information was also gleaned from prisoners' letters concerning the destruction of German ships. There are on file fairly detailed descriptions of the events attending the blowing up of the "Cormoran" at Guam; the action of German crews in connection with ships in Honolulu or New York; for example a letter from a former member of a Hamburg-American crew interned at Fort Oglethorpe: "On January 31, we received order from the Embassy to destroy the engines."

1 (b) Counter Espionage - Labor Unions, I.W.W., etc.

The War Prison Barracks at Fort Douglas and Oglethorpe, particularly the former, had many interns who belonged to radical labor organizations. Their correspondence afforded considerable information as to the activities of these agitators, particularly the I.W.W. organization. Letters addressed to prisoners by fellow members of these organizations were frequently copied and sent to officers and officials likely to be interested, since they revealed the fact that individuals were still at large whose views were dangerous. Some information was also gained as to such propaganda

movements as the Russellite organization. Particular attention might be called to the efforts on the parts of friends of Russellite interns to present the internment as martyrdom in the cause of religion. There is a considerable file of I.W.W. letters, mostly emanating from the Western Coast.

1 (c) Counter Espionage - Business Relationships of Prisoners.

The business connections of the prisoners were observed and information was supplied to the Alien Property Custodian or to the War Trade Board, or to both. Personal letters from interned enemy aliens in this country to relatives or friends contained frequent references to their property, or their property interests, and at times seemed to reveal property, directly or indirectly in the prisoner's possession, which had not been declared in the statement to the Alien Property Custodian. In one case, a letter from a prisoner to his mother disclosed the fact that he had transferred a certain amount of property in order to avoid its falling under the regulations for the control of enemy property. In some cases the information sent to the proper authorities was very large in amount, particularly in the case of such business men as Edward Lutz, H. C. Kulenkampff, Isaac Straus, Robert Tuemler, A. Koester, G. F. Schloetelborg, and others.

In September, 1918, this office entered into an agreement with the office of The Adjutant General of the Army with reference to the normal supply of funds for the prisoners' incidental use, and articles requested or ordered by the prisoner through relatives and friends. All communications from the prisoners containing requests for money which was, or seemed to be, on deposit to their credit, or containing orders for merchandise of any kind, were submitted to the office of The Adjutant General of the Army, usually with translation when the original was not written in English. Letters written by prisoners or addressed to them which concerned their business or financial relations, were submitted to the War Trade Board, except that this ruling was not made to apply to letters to and from actual prisoners of war in correspondence with residents of enemy countries, to letters from enemy countries to interned enemy aliens, which simply gave information concerning a business transaction in the enemy country over which the prisoner had no control.

1 (d) Counter Espionage - Correspondence between Prisoners of War and Persons in Government Service.

There were numerous cases of correspondence between prisoners and men in the armed forces of this country. This correspondence was noted and report made to the proper Intelligence Officers in order that investigation might be made. In cases where there was no information beyond the fact of correspondence, the following form letter was sent to the Intelligence Officer:

1. The censorship of mail of interned enemy aliens and war prisoners discloses that _____ _____
(Soldier's name) (Rank and Organization)
has been corresponding with Prisoner _____ No. _____ War

Prison Barracks, Fort _____. This for your information.

2. Though this need not prejudice his reputation in any way, it is suggested that he be investigated under cover, and that his mail and actions be discreetly observed for a period.

This type of investigation of those in the service of the government did not end with the armed forces of the country. Information was often supplied in the case of civilian employees in government work. Mrs. C. Rosenkranz, 324 West End Avenue, New York City, wrote on October 10th, 1918 to R. J. Oberfohren, Prisoner in War Prison Barracks, Fort Oglethorpe, C.W. Swan, and wrote to him familiarly of conditions in the office and of plans for work, further stating that he thought of leaving there for employment in the Newark Ship Yards. Correspondence showed that an employe of the Springfield Arsenal was boarding with the wife of an interned enemy alien, F. Warsenig. Louis Doelling, a friend of A. Fischer, prisoner in Fort Oglethorpe, was found to be employed at Cramp's.

In a familiar letter to a prisoner the following passage seemed significant:

> "My dear Martin: Our Helen began work yesterday in New York in the office of the Red Cross, where letters are written to Germany and sent out. She is a kind of a translator and censor and I intend to go there with her very soon and send a letter home for I continually have a great longing for my dear mother."

In other words, a member of a family intimately associated with an alien enemy prisoner was employed in sending Red Cross Welfare Messages to Germany. In all of these and similar cases, material was supplied to institute proper investigation.

Many enemy aliens, primarily belonging to the Slavic peoples under Austrian rule, were weeded out of the American Army, and some of them were sent to internment camps. This office had an opportunity to observe the correspondence of some of these who seemed to merit attention because of the attitude expressed in their letters; their communications with Slavic societies were noted.

2 (a) Information as to German Conditions - Economic.

From letters coming out of Germany material was gathered with reference to conditions in Germany, economic conditions particularly, but intellectual and emotional as well, - concerning the morale of the German people as revealed directly or indirectly in these letters. In drawing inferences from such correspondence it must be borne in mind that these letters had

all been subjected to German censorship before despatch; as a consequence, theoretically there would be nothing in them which had not been approved by the German censor. It may on the other hand be presumed that censors might have been encouraged to allow reports of unfavorable conditions to pass in order that the same might serve as a kind of propaganda; on the other hand, one may assume that in some cases a censor was indolent, or indifferent, and that the truth was passed; some letters, almost indecipherable, contained the most despondent views of German conditions. Reports were made which have covered this aspect of the prisoners' correspondence, both statements as to famine conditions and others which bade defiance to the "starvation policy" of Germany's enemies.

The apparent discrepancy between these two points of view may possibly, or even probably, be reconciled by the theory that the average man suffered much while the rich and powerful had access to hoarded stores, which, if evenly distributed, would have proved a fair sufficiency for normal wants. It was evident from various letters that certain persons of influence had business connections with producer or jobber and were relatively immune, while the common people endured privations.

It seems of interest to include here a certain portion of material collected; as exemplified by these extracts, there was very frequent comment on the high cost of living; exact prices for various commodities were frequently given; the use of substitutes for various necessities; the workings of the food rationing system among the people are disclosed, particularly in the references to reduction in weight; correspondents frequently remarked that their relatives would no longer recognize them, so thin have they become. Extracts are given in translation.

Letter of Gustav Wirth, Schneidermuehl, Germany, to Walter Wirth, (McPherson), Dec. 7, 1917.

"We have to retrench and have learned to eat dry bread...But I had to laugh when I read that you only allow yourself a piece of cake once in a while. Such a thing no longer exists here, and as to tobacco, today an ordinary cigar costs 40-50 Pf; cigarettes are 10 Pf. apiece. You would be astounded if I wrote you of other prices."

Puhlman, Berlin, Germany, to his son, Fort McPherson.

"We have bread cards, meat cards, potato cards, sugar cards, provision cards, egg cards, food cards, butter cards, coffee cards, soap cards, cheese cards and coal cards... Formerly there were two thousand grams of bread per person on the card; now it has been reduced to 1600 grams and in addition the loaf is smaller and our hunger is greater."

A letter of Aug. 12, 1918, from V. Cuba in German, to J. Cuba, Fort Oglethorpe.

"And in order that you may get an idea of the prices here I will tell you that a waist, which formerly was to be bought for perhaps 15 Marks, now costs 150 marks. And moreover, there are no genuine materials and no leather shoes any more, only wooden ones, and everything so dear."

From Otto Kaufman, Zuerich, (Probably from Mainz) to Frank H. Kreuter, 2420 N. Sixth Street, Philadelphia, July 6, 1918:

"That your parents get fatter is really a wonder, for we all grow thin with the small rations of food and greases we obtain. The prices of victuals are so high that only wealthy people can buy enough to eat...Lately we have had here many meetings and demonstrations of crowds crying for food and protesting against the dearness, demanding that all should get the same quantity to eat, rich and poor alike. We live in very bad times, which get worse every day, and are wondering what may happen next."

Letter from M. Rauch, Kiel, Germany, to Rauch, (San. Insp.), Feb. 22, 1918:

"Be very careful of your clothes, for you won't get a suit here for less than 250 Marks."

Letter from "Mother" to Hans Zopff, Feb. 18, 1918:

"Just think, we bought two hens recently, 25 Marks apiece, is not that tremendously expensive?"

Frau Schwarck, Hamburg, Germany, to Carl Schwarck, Internment Station, Hot Springs, N.C.

"Ida has bought two pigs that are two weeks old. Each one weighs 12 lbs. and cost 148 Marks."

Herman Kluttig, Dresden, Saxony, May 27, 1918, to Rudolf Kluttig, Fort Douglas.

"Today one yard of shirting costs from 12 to 15 Marks. Potatoes, bread, butter and meat are all distributed by cards; each person receives weekly one-eighth of a pound of butter, and 200 grams of meat. Butter sells for from five to eight Marks per pound. A 6 Pf. cigarette sells for 35 to 40 Pf. Workmen are scarce and therefore well paid. Boys 15 years old earn 30 to 80 Marks a week, and therefore, the theatres and moving picture shows are always crowded."

Frau S.H. Gumbrecht, 24 Luisenstr. Berlin, June 7, 1918, to S.D. Gumbrecht, Fort McPherson.

"Although I pay out a good deal for food, it is of no avail, for there is not the nourishment in the food that one expects. We have to fight continually against colds and other little illnesses. Our bodies have no blood and no fat anymore and the slightest little thing pulls us down... A suit of clothes for you will cost now five to six hundred Marks."

Lottie Rudolph, Halle, Germany, to Walter Rudolph, Fort McPherson, February 10, 1918:

"Mother died in November 1917. She had a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs, which had developed from diabetes. The latter illness was hastened by the present food conditions. Had it not been for the terrible war she would have been alive yet. It will not be until you reach home that you will realize how we have had to struggle in Germany, but so far we have been successful."

Letter from Goschwitz, June 16, 1918:

"A suit cost 200-300 M. Shoes 70-100 M., but no more can be had. All necessaries of life have become scarce here; everything you need,--even paper, --cannot be had. We haven't had shoes or decent clothing for ever so long. You try to get a piece of goods and they give you paper material (Papiergewebe); shoes have wooden soles; the uppers are paper, -- and the prices! 36-40 Marks for blue overalls of paper, wooden shoes 20 M. Waging war has become a most profitable business..."

Anna Frick, Rostock, Germany, June 22, 1918, to Ernst Meincke, Hot Springs, N.C.

"I bought a new pair of shoes. I paid 30 Marks for them and inside they were made of paper. In former times I would not have accepted them.--- My friend, Mrs. Eckhardt, paid 5000 Marks for the following dining room set: one sideboard, one serving table, one dining table and six chairs."

From Alice Szirak, Kraisbach, bey Graz, Austria, to Erich Franks, Gloucester City, N.J., March 3, 1918:

"We should like to go back home to Germany but the cost of living is said to be three times as great there as it is here."

From Neubrandenburger Zeitung, Feb. 3, 1918:

"One half liter of petroleum may be obtained on the Coupon No. 10 of the Petroleum Card valid in Neubrandenburg. As soon as the petroleum in the possession of the merchants is sold, the same will only be delivered in the shops of Stegemann, Siemerling, Mitmann, Brandt, Conrad, Kolbow and Leitemann. The sale of petroleum to the rural population is strictly forbidden. In this place we again call attention to the fact that almost the entire production of petroleum is required by the admiralty for the manufacture of lubricating oil and especially as fuel-oil for our U-boats, and on that account there will be no distribution of petroleum to the civilian population during the next months."

"Decree against keeping horses for pleasure. The seriousness of the times grants a justification only to those things which are unconditionally necessary for life, and excludes rightfully every luxury, in whatever form this may appear. Accordingly the decree of the commander-in-chief in the Marks that from the first of March on prohibits the keeping of horses for pleasure, only corresponds to the demands of the day."

Extracts from letters from Germany received at Fort McPherson in the week ending March 30th, 1918:

"There is plenty of coal in Germany, but no transportation."
"Hogs are a great rarity."
"Boys are being drafted at the age of 15 for service at 16."
"Children are dying for lack of attention."
"We sold our cow for 2008 Marks and 50 Pfgs."
"All railroad fares have been doubled."
"A mother had her son's body expressed from Hamburg to Berlin at a cost of 1000 Marks.(In peace times this would have cost about 100 Marks.)"

"The prices of foodstuffs have risen rapidly; one egg costs in the market 39 centimes, - I do not know any more what eggs taste like because I cannot buy them at this price. Butter and cheese have increased in price from 150 to 200 percent. Dwellings are scarcely to be had."

"Our aunt at Frankfurt will probably also have to perish. She weighs only 98 lbs."

"We have all become somewhat thinner...We have learned to be less exacting."

Letter from Frau L. Bottcher, Neukolln, Fontane, Germany, to Hans Paesch, Fort McPherson, May 29, 1918:

Dear Brother:

Today we received your dear Easter card. Your greetings to Maria cannot be delivered, as you probably have already learned. But your greetings to Minna I can send. What you have heard about the conditions is true. Formerly, when Otto came home every month with 12 Marks wages, I always thought how nice it would be if only better times would come for us. When other women bought flowers in the market place, I stood by as if in a dream, for we did not have money enough to pay for our food even. Otto wore the discarded clothes of his brothers. Finally after two years Otto got a position and we were able to live comfortably - then the war came, and the old conditions returned, only much worse, for in former times we had enough to eat, but now we go hungry. We are all three under medical treatment on account of total emaciation and weakness - but the doctoring does no good; what food would give us again, medicine cannot give. Many times I am almost at the point of making an end of it all, but why? Who would gain by it? Nobody. On account of weakness I was in bed all day yesterday and today my hands tremble for weakness so that I have great difficulty in writing.

The workers in the munition factories are said to earn 200 to 250 Marks a week. Otto receives, for clerical work, only 50 Marks a week. You can imagine when we have a chance to buy something sub rosa that we must stand back in sadness, for out of the 50 Marks we have to pay every week 10:50 Marks for house rent. The house rents have increased terribly although the renters have asked for no repairs or improvements whatsoever.

I believe that I shall not live until autumn; I faint frequently especially when I have to stand in line for hours in order to obtain a little food. When I get at last my half pound of meat for the week, I find that it is spoiled. It nauseates me always to the point of vomiting.

In my thoughts I am with you eating fried eggs and ham - the latter I have not seen for three years. Pork (formerly food for the poor people) I have not seen for a year and a half. Whoever has money and some connection with the country can get something to eat.

It is worse with the coal. One can stand the whole day, hot or cold, and is lucky if he gets a little bit of coal to carry home with him. Heating the sitting room in winter is not to be thought of - the coal must be used to cook the food. Only a limited quantity of gas may be burned - just enough to warm the coffee in the morning and

in the evening, a half hour for illumination; whoever burns more must pay a fine and after a man has been fined two or three times, his gas is shut off entirely.

Well, I must close. Complaining does no good. Many hearty greetings from

Your sister, Lieschen.

2 (b) Information as to German conditions - Moral.

Considerable information was also made available as to the breaking down of moral standards; the prevalence of immorality was openly and frequently noted, especially in the last year.

One woman wrote a letter to her husband on May 23, 1918, describing conditions in a factory where 1800 men and women were working, which frankly admitted the grossest laxity, indicating at the same time that these conditions were regarded as normal, as a matter of course. Many letters contained similar references, usually accompanied by excuses; some of this evidence was in the form of general statements, such as "You would hardly recognize the place any more, and the life led there," with definite indication of the changes meant; others contained more personal relations which afforded cumulative evidence. The following may serve as a sample, taken from a letter received at Fort McPherson, in the week-end of March 30, 1918: "There is a fearful number of family dissensions, growing out of immorality."

The prevalence of theft, particularly petty thievery, was often noted: from a Brandenburg paper dated February 6, 1918, the following was taken as illuminating in this regard:

> "Deceivers deceived. The many thefts of packages of food have led the senders to despatch the imperilled shipments C.O.D. But C.O.D. shipments are stolen too; as is reported to the Vossische Zeitung, the thieves, most of whom presumably are to be found among thepost office employees, pay the charges themselves. In this way the senders receive their money without the package reaching the addressees. An official in Greater Berlin has, within a short time, had to go through this experience twice. He took remedial measures of his own. He induced the sender to despatch a third 'pay on delivery package', the contents of which consisted of worthless rubbish. The thief was doubtless not a little surprised when in unpacking the hoped for 'food' he perceived that he had fallen into a trap. It is not impossible that this experience will be made use of in order to reap any easy gains, especially when the packages, through their form or weight, have the appearance of consignments of food."

2 (c) Information as to German Conditions - Political or Military.

The expression of political or military opinions was much less common, although as early as the autumn of 1917 comments were found in lettersfrom

German soldiers to the effect that they no longer knew or cared for what they were fighting. The German Censorship would lbviously be particularly alert to prevent information on such topics from passing through enemy hands. Occasionally passages of interest were found containing an expression of political opinion, such as the following, taken from the letter of a German subject of Swiss descent, who wrote from Hesle, August 14, 1918:

> "We South Germans have all had enough of these cursed Prussians.... After the war, our watchword shall be 'A South German League of States', and 'Freed from Berlin' is the common wish of all good South Germans."

Most of the correspondence from Germany, however, to the very end showed a belief in Germany's invincibility; there were many proud and offensive boasts about Germany's triumphs, and frequent expressions of willingness to endure. Here, as in the examination of all correspondence, effort had to be made to distinguish between the candid expression of personal opinion the purposeful distortion, or propaganda; to the latter class belonged occasional statements as to the treatment accorded to allied prisoners in Germany, particularly to the liberties granted them.

3. Condition in Internment Camps in the United States.

Through letters from the different War Prison Barracks, the subsection collected a mass of material as to life in the internment camps, which may serve as evidence as to the treatment accorded prisoners. It gains considerably in value through the fact that the collecting of this matter covered a long period of time; thatdirect and indirect evidence was sought; that the material was gained at times when the prisoners could have no reason to suppose that the evidence was beingcollected. This mass of material is held as valuable testimony as to the excellent conditions under which the prisoners lived. A collection of copies of letters and extracts of letters was submitted to the State Department in connection with the diplomatic relationship concerning the treatment of prisoners of war.

The following letters and extracts may serve to show the value of such a collection; they are translated when the original was in German. In addition to the letters written at the different War Prison Barracks, several have been included which describe conditions in subsidiary working camps, to which prisoners were transferred in the summer of 1918.

From Karl Moehlenbrock, Fort McPherson, to Frau H. Moehlenbrock, Bremen, Germany, November 7, 1917.

Dearest Mother:

In the first place I wish you as well as my brothers and sisters a very happy Christmas festival and wish you all at the same time everything good. May it be the last Christmas in this fearful world war. Finally peace will have to come. How are you, dear Mother? I have not heard anything from you for a long time. Are thebrothers still at the front? I hope they have remained till now unharmed. May their good star protect them in the future too. Have you a good deal to suffer at home? Dear Mother, you all must write me right soon and in detail how you all are, and how it looks at home. Recently a good deal of mail has been coming

in here, but there was nothing in it for me. Say, have you already put me on the casualty lists? Dear Mother, don't worry at all about me. I have no distress to suffer. Of all the prisoners in the world, we probably have it the best, or at laast among the best. Our food is irreproachable and I have already often wished that you could get some of our superabundance. So, all in all, we have struck it fine here, only that freedom is lacking to us. Say, dear Mother, is the hatred at home strong against the American people? I believe that is really unjust for here, too, our tremendous accomplishments are admiringly acknowledged by a very great part of the people. The senselessly venomous press is to blame for all. Up till now the war has been looked on here as play, yet gradually they will come to see that this play may become right bloody. But that is not our affair. From Argentine I have heard no news for almost a year. How are the people at Horn? All well and of good cheer? Mina has no doubtless a good deal to do. Say, what is Wilhel (ina?) Westerhold really doing? I have met someone here who is much interested in her, and who has known her for a good many years. Now I will close.

Wish you all very happy holidays, I remain, with many greetings,

Your Karl.

Wish also a happy New Year.

From Paul Freitag, Fort McPherson, to C. Freitag, Geestamuende, Germany, October 19, 1917.

Dear Parents:

I will try once again to write you a few lines as I take it that my last letter did not arrive. I am well and happy and hope the same of you. We must limit ourselves very much with our mail, as two letters a month only and one card a week are allowed. We have now got the crew of the Eitel-Friedrich in our camp. I am sorry to say that I could not see my old comrade K. Graul again. He died in the camp at Oglethorpe of typhoid. We cannot complain here, because our camp is well situated here and the climate is endurable. Winter is already noticeable and so we can often stand a little fire in the barracks. We are given little round stoves to make a pleasant temperature. The life here in camp is rather monotonous, carving, lead soldiers and painting are the principal occupations. We get lots of pleasure now from our Y.M.C.A. building, many cozy hours at concerts and movies. The building was erected by our men. We get very little news here, only what is served by the newspapers, and one cannot accept all of that blindly. Occasionally there may be a doubt, but brace up, Germany is fighting a superior force of enemies and our enemies must never succeed in wiping Germany off the face of the earth. When one sees the preparations here one might almost believe the war is to last another ten years. I only hope that the decision will soon come so that the German people may be freed. I have not yet heard anything more from Robert, anyway the mail is very much restricted. We lately received a visit from the Swiss Embassy who found everything in good order. We immediately explained our money matters, and the gentlemen are going to do their best; it is only to be regretted that nothing has been agreed upon. Let us hope that peace will soon come again so that one may no longer be dependent upon the favor of other people.

Hoping that my letter will find you all in the best of health, I close, with the heartiest greetings.

Your son, Paul Frietag.

My greetings to the Ohnesorge family.

From Hans Bockmuehl, Fort McPherson, to Frau Clara Ramminger, Gera-Reuss, Germany, October 17, 1917.

My dear Aunt Clara:

Once more I will make the attempt to see if this letter will reach you, for since the severing of diplomatic relations (i.e. in February) I have sent you greetings each month, partly by cards, partly by letters, without, however, receiving any answer, and I infer that you have received none of my missives. You can imagine vividly how I long for a line from you, as for about one year I have not heard about the fate of my dear relatives in Gera, and such uncertainty renders our disconsolate life here more difficult. As I have often written you, we were taken from the ship towards the end of March and came to Fort Oglethorpe, where we stayed six months. Life was very agreeable to us there, the barracks were at an altitude of about 400 meters and the fine air did us much good. Regarding the treatment we couldnot complain, so that we left the place, where we all felt so well, most regretfully. Since October 5th the whole crew of the "Eitel-Friedrich" has been transferred to the sister fort, McPherson, further south, where our comrades of the Kronprinz Wilhelm have been since the beginning of April; thus we have travelled about a good bit in the United States. It is to be hoped that the next journey will be across the se as home. Our stay at Fr. McPherson has been almost too short for me to pronounce final judgment, but it seems as though we should be as well, if not in certain respects, better cared for than we were there. We, the warrant officers, are granted certain advantages which we missed very much at Oglethorpe. At our last place of abode we all lived together in one barracks. It is true that this is the case here too, but it is divided into little rooms, so each of us has his little "home" and that is the greatest comfort, for life in barracks entails too many differences of opinion.....Mr. Jacobs has cared very much for our crew at Oglethorpe. He was Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. and had come over from Germany only at the beginning of 1917. Now, thank God, I am quite well. At the beginning of September I spent fourteen days at the Infirmary at Oglethorpe with the typhoid fever. The first symptoms of the disease for me and three other men were identical as for typhoid patients, but blood tests and other tests were all negative. I am glad that I got off whole, - we unfortunately lost one of our comrades as a result of the disease. The treatment inthe hospital was quite excellent, both the medical staff and the others concerned in caring for us did everything to make our long stay as agreeable as possible, nobody could make any complaint. From Aunt Selma and my cousin Fritz I have heard nothing either since April of this year. It is somewhat appalling to rust out here, cut off from all communications. It is to be hoped that this frightful war will not last too long. Often one becomes downright disheartened when one gets a chance to read the accounts in the newspapers here. Thank God that everything thatis written in them is not true.

For today I will close, dear Aunt Clara. I hope my letter will find you and all my other relatives well; likewise I hope for the same for those who are fighting; please give a thousand greetings to all everywhere from me.

Loving greetings from,

Your ever faithful Hans.

From Peter Wefers, Fort McPherson, to August Wefers, Germany, December 1918.

We have actually no reason here to hang our heads. Furthermore I shall never forget Uncle Sam's good care and later I am going to picture to you all the life of amodern prisoner of war sometime. Indeed, we've had it the best of all prisoners of war. America first.

From M.C. Heinemann, Fort McPherson, to Mrs. D. Heinemann, Kiel-Gaarden, Germany, June 10, 1918.

Dear Dolly and Mutal:

Again we write June 1918 and with this a third Whitsunday passed by without incident and without having the privilege of spending together this wonderful celebration of spring, and if the large masses in Germany and Austria do not get back their senses soon, then perhaps a fourth and fifth Whitsunday will pass by without our seeing each other again. It would be pretty hard, my darling, but cannot be helped. But that we have to go through this hard and gloomy time is our own fault. Why were we not organized before the war in such a way that we could oppose the Government? But for decades the German people has been raised in servitude, therefore knows no other duty but to obey its Lord and Master. But they are too cowardly to think about their individual right and express it in words. This has been proved here in camp only a few weeks ago. Dear Dolly, we have always been treated well, even like gentlemen, by the Americans. I just wonder if American prisoners in Germany travel first class coaches, Pullman cars (in Germany sleepers and dining cars) and if they would be accommodated in a hotel like we were after we were taken down from the "Appam", or if they would get just as good meals as we get. I shall enclose a menu and you can see for yourself what we get. The menu is a sample of what we got June 15-21, 1917, and of April 28, May 4th, 1918. Of course, since America has entered the war the meals have been a little reduced, however, the food is better than what we had at home at peace time. If only the menu reaches you, you would envy us for what we get.

With much love,

Your loving husband.

From Willi Weber, Camp Sevier, S.C., to Franz Sambach, War Prison Barracks, Fort McPherson.

. . . . We are treated well, at present we are together with American prisoners. We soon get our own camp. The food is good. Here we are living in tents. I am glad we are away from there (McPherson). We are well treated by the guardand officers. The work, too, is satisfactory. You see I cannot tell you anything bad from here and when we have our own camp, it will even be better.

From .....Camp Devens, Mass., to Herr Adolf Kalkstein, Bremerhaven, Germany, June 23, 1918.

.....You must know that on July 1st, I, with 99 comrades, all fromthe Kronprinz, have been sent about 1200 miles to the State of Massachusetts, which is still more to the north than New York, to work on the government farm. We are here now about three weeks and have planted potatoes. You can think how pleased were to exchange our inactive life for this one, as it was the month of May and unbearably hot in Georgia, while the climate here is more like our own in Bremerhaven. Weare camping in tents and expect to stay here until October. We get 25¢ per day, which is 1 Mark, besides one dollar which we all have to pay to the government for clothing

and food. All in all, we are treatedwell. To our regret ourU.S. Lieutenant met with an accident (he was sent here from McPherson) and now we do not know who will take his place. Although we are only 40 miles away from Boston... we are in the real wilderness, the real wild west life....The work is easy, a little unused but if you could see me once with my team of mules you would think thatI was born to be a farmer. About 150 acres ofland we are cultivating.

From Gustav Hoffman, Fort Oglethorpe to Mrs. Mareyke Hoffman, Norfolk, Va., May 10, 1918.

My dear Mareyke and dear little child:

Why do you write so little; have you already forgotten your "Schatze"? My physical condition is fine. The food we receive here is according to circumstances, very good, quantitative and qualitative. The sanitary conditions are excellent, three times we havebeen inoculated against smallpox and typhoid. The beds are good and we were even given mosquito nets. The treatment too is good, and if the camp administration has to take stricter measures it is the fault of the inferior men who are among the interned here. The majority of the interned belong to the very low class, people with bad manners, who, instead ofadjusting themselves to the present conditions and thereby helping to make life bearable, do everything in their power to oppose rules and thereby make life miserable to every one. The most inferior are the ones who demand the most, those used the least to a decent living are finding fault with everything. Not only do they put themselves on the same level with men of good breeding and education, try to fraternize with them and address them with the familiar "Thou" (Du), but they also try to dominate by showing their vulgarity, brutality and threatening, which often are followed by acts of violence. From these I can imagine how conditions are in Russia under the Bolsheviki government, the ruling of the mob, and I am not surprised any longer at the disreputation the Germans have all over the world. They are all judged by those inferior elements which discredit German nationality through their bad habits and peculiarities. Can you imagine how disappointed I am; I was under the impression to find here congenial men of my own nationality and a pleasant life with them, but just the dear countryment are those who make life miserable to me. Physically I am well and have nothing to complain about, but mentally I am very much depressed. I follow the advice of the poet Horace who said in his ode "Odi profanum vulgus et arceo." About 40 persons, indiscriminately, are living in one barrack and one has to listen to the rotten remarks and see the bad habits of these persons belonging to the mental proletariat. The better elements, or at lease those who have the means to do so, are living in a barrack by themselves, pay for their own board which amounts to about $25.00 per month, they are exempt from all work which the other internees have to do alternately without remuneration, f.i., kitchen work, for one week to set the tables, wash dishes and serve the meals, etc., or to work in the barracks, to sweep and keep them clean. Work in the washhouse, keep the washrooms in order, attend to the heating, etc. Work in the camp; build roads and keep them in order, etc. However, one can take a substitute to do the work, and a man entirely pennyless is only too glad to do it for $1.00 per week.

Everyone who cares may get a small piece of land assigned to him and work it at his own expense. However, the assertion of Mr. Jatman that there is an opportunity here to make $15-16 per week, is absolutely untrue. I very much prefer to live in Barrack A. Not on account of the food, our food here is sufficient in every respect, but on account of the better class of people and society one finds there. But this is out of the question now, as we receive no more money from our banker in Holland, and you have to earn your own living now. I will not burden you with more, only if you will send me once in a while enough to pay a substitute to do my kitchen work. Not that I am ashamed to work, work does not disagree with any one, but I cannot do personal service to others. Then there are expenses for tobacco and a few more trifles. The money deposited in Holland I would like to keep for the children or for the utmost necessity, but if the work in the theatre is getting too hard for you in this hot weather, I have no objection to your drawing from C. Engelbert, through the intervention of Consul Mottin, $200-$250. But be careful that through your confidence you will not be cheated and the money is eventually lost. Especially be careful with your signature, sign nothing before you have asked my advice. To transfer the account from Holland to Norfolk as suggested by Mottin is now entirely out of question. The war tax is too high now and would take about 1/6 of the whole amount. Enter in no business transactions with other people and trust nobody.

I wish the plan to intern the women would be realized; we could live together again and I would do the housework for you and the children while you rest. Write in German but write my full Christian name and title, also. War Prison Barracks, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

Hearty greetings and kisses to you and the children.

Your "Schatzi".

From John Meyer, Fort Oglethorpe, to Miss H. M. Hebing, New York City, October 16, 1918.

....You ask me if I read all day long. There are several hours during the day and especially the evening which I spend reading. Especially now, as we had to close our University and lecturing courses on account of the disease. Our camp has been increased considerably, owing to the Hot Spring people which were transferred to our camp. In the beginning of September we had arranged courses in lecturing and studying different branches of science which were well attended. Scholars and artists of world-wide reknown, have offered their services. Just to mention a few subjects. Physics, chemistry, biology, transmission of electric power, stenography, six or seven different languages for all grades. History of Science, History of Arts, Agriculture, History of Precious Stones, International Rights, but that is not all. I attend, or attended, lectures on International Rights, biology and physics. Besides these, we have very interesting individual lectures two evenings a week. Ewers spoke on India, Goldschmidt on Japan, another man in mining in the Australian bushes, another one on Singapore, and the Strait Settlements, on mounting the volcanos, on an expedition to the South pole, on the famous voyage of the Russian fleetin the Russian-Japan war around almost the whole earth, which found a tragical ending in the sea-battle of Tsuschima, etc., all these lectures spoke of their own experiences. We had just commenced a new cycle of lectures "German Industry" with an introduction on wool, when we closed down for the reasons of pre-

caution. I rise at 6 o'clock, roll-call at 7, breakfast at 7:30, at 8 o'clock I have my Spanish lesson, from 9 to 10:30 I play volley-ball, after that a cold shower bath, then I rest in the sun for ½ hour or an hour or read. Dinner at 12 o'clock; from 1 to 3 afternoon nap, and then I take a walk until half past four 1'clock. Dressing and roll-call at 5 o'clock, supper at 5:30, after which I do my Spanish exercises until dark; until 9:30 I play Skat (do not laugh, Mr. Gustter, I can play it "almost" or bridge. Anotherhalf hour walk and then to bed. That is the routine of the day in a general way. The next time I will give you more details with comments.

From A. Hansen, General Hospital, Biltmore, N.C., to Miss E. Muckhoff, Albany, N. Y.

....The hospital in which we are was formerly a hotel, but the government has taken it over since the beginning of the war. It is beautifully situated, surrounded by mountains and woods, and two men live in one room; treatment and meals are good.

From Frank Rinkenbach, Fort Douglas, Utah, to Ernest Rinkenbach, Union Hill, N.J., January 14, 1918

As you see above, I'm a prisoner of war, and as such, I must assure you, am treated very well and with consideration. Have a fine bed to sleep in and plenty of good food to eat, so you see the animal part of me is well satisfied, as to the inner man, that is another story, as Kipling says. Of one thing I am sure, that all in all, we are better treated here than any war prisoners are treated in Germany.

From Adam Schuman, Fort Douglas, to Mrs. A. Toneges, El Paso, Texas, September 7, 1918.

Since about two months I have been an inmate of this War Prison and every man has to perform a certain amount of work to keep the place in proper and sanitary condition and do different kinds of duty in connection with kitchen and other work for the health and welfare of the internees. There is plenty of leisure time wherein one may follow his inclination and work for himself. We are living like American soldiers, that is as far as food and regulations are concerned, as well fed and as comfortably housed as can be expected in a war prison. The treatment accorded to prisoners by the military authorities is uniformly courteous and considerate; there can be no just cause for cpmplaint on the part of anyone that wants to do what is right.

From Franz Bennet, War Prison Barracks, Fort Douglas, Utah, to Mr. Wittelschaefer, 205 West 103rd St., New York City, October 20th, 1917.
DearMr. Wittelschaefer:

Your friendly lines of the 24th September and parcel and card received with thanks. The parcel arrived as a great surprise and most unexpectedly and I do not know how I can repay you. I have already acknowledged the receipt of your books and I hope that the letter is in your possession.

I now want to describe to you a few words about the conditions here.

Let us pretend thatyou are on your way here with the intention of visiting our camp. The sight offered you would be the following: From afar you already see a row of yellow barracks surrounded by two

high fences of wire at each corner of which stands a sentry protectedfrom the weather by a neat little guard house. In the first row are the officers' quarters, in the second the kitchens and dining room, in the third the houses for the men, and then the bath houses. Now you enter the camp. Your first sight is a little house; it is the office of the camp and at the same time our post office. But already another stately green building smiles at you from a distance. It is the amusement hall which often offers the interned sailors an object for their hours of leisure. It was established by the "Young Men's Christian Association." Clever sailors, who feel that they have talent for acting, offer their comrades amusement and pastime here according to all the rules of the art. Every Sunday there is the theatre or a movie. Two evenings a week are for dancing or for dancing lessons. On the other evenings the orchestra and the singing society have the hall. Morning and afternoon there are classes for the various groups of students in English, French, Spanish, arithmetic, history, stenography, etc. The theatre music consists of stringed orchestra and a piano. We have as well as that a brass band (12 instruments) which has its extra concerts on Sundays. It is the ship's band of S.M.S. "Geier". If our instruments had been saved at the time we would have the most marvelous band in our camp. Next to the theatre is the hospital where two German and two American doctors are occupied daily.

Then you go on through the separate rows of barracks. There you find the two companies busy keeping the camp in order inside and outside, armed with picks, axes, brooms and shovels. In the meantime the guard goes about his own business. One sees, for instance, one part washing clothes, men who formerly proved themselves good laundry men on board ship. The others are making tables and cupboards in order to be as comfortable aspossible. A number of players have gathered on the ball ground to use their free time in training for the next match. One meets groups of pedestrians talking gaily of old memories, exchanging old experiences, each one animated with the hope of starting out on the homeward trip in a few months, bidding foreign countries farewell forever. Those who stayed behind in the sitting rooms kill time reading the newspapers, writing letters, studying, many taking a little sweet slumber to save his eyes. We have now arrived at the sittingrooms. Neat little flower and vegetable gardens, which it is true have now suffered somewhat from the raw autumn air, stretch along the sides.

At the present time it does not look particularly cheerful in the rooms themselves, as preparations for winter are under way. Each one thinks with shock, four years have we been preserved from this.

Now let us go into the kitchen and dining room. We recognize the overseer of the kitchen in a stout, full-bearded mate who, with his staff, composed of cooks, assistant cooks and stewards, is responsible for good food, order and cleanliness in cook room and dining room.

Let us llok at the center of the camp. It is distinguished by a tall sign post on which are placed newspapers, notices, programs, etc.

I will stop with this or else the letter will be too long. Again many thanks for the lovely package. Mr. Schwarz and Johnson received their things and were also very much pleased.

Dear Mr. Wittelschaefer, I would rather owe you the answer to the questionin your letter. I would have to write out a list, which, perhaps, would seem too big to you. If you want to give me a great pleasure,

I would be grateful for a "Bartebinde".

Now farewell, I remain with the heartiest greetings.

Fritz Bennet.

From Paul Acker, Fort Douglas, to Miss Gertrude Rostel, Los Angeles, Cal., June 16th, 1918.

My darling Gertrude:

Arrived here on Wednesday afternoon after a nice trip, which I enjoyed very much. The treatment at Fort McArthur was just fine and just the sameon our trip. I never thought to meet things here as they really are. I have just everything here - but you. If I knew that our American boys in German prisons would be treated just as well, then we are here, I would be satisfied, but I know they are not and that is a shame. America does everything itcan to make it comfortable for us and anyone who kicks about this should be shot. For the first - the meals are just splendid and there is no place in the world where I ate as good as I do here except at home withyou. There is just some of everything and always full and plenty. We have schools to learn all languages, anutical sciences and music. A piano is here also. Then we have a building furnished by the Y.M.C.A. where we have motion pictures twice and theater Sundays. Also there is a library, barber shop, and lawyers office. The rooms for bathing, washing and toilets are large, clean and we have hot and cold water at all times. The livingquarters are also very comfortable. All we have to do is to line up for counting twice a day, the other time we can do as we please. We have our own gardens where all kinds of vegetables are raised and so many, many other things to make onefeel well, which at the present seem just countless to me. I can write two lettersand four postals a week, can write to Germany also. Wrote a postal to mother. She will be so glad to receive news of me. In my next letter she will hear about you. The electric light burns until 10 P.M. We are about 650 feet high. There is snow in the mountains and the view grand - a real summer resort. I'm very sorry to tell you that we do not work here so I am not able to make any money. But there is another good thing, I am not in need of money. Please send me two pair of those Japanese slippers, they are very good to wear here. It is good and hot at the present but it will be cold in the winter. We have very good music here, mostly violins, also good singers. The location of this place is beautiful. Now I think the foregoing things told you enough good things to make you feel good and you don't have to worry aboutanything. My health is in perfect condition, so the doctor said. I feel it to be my duty to say that this is a new sign to me that this country stands - first - in everything. I will make good for this is the way to become a citizen of the country after the war and carry, if possible, American spirits to other parts of the world. Must close now, am allowed to write four pagesbut have no more of this papers. Much love and all good wishes. I am ever in thoughts with you.

Your true Paul.

4. Opinions and Morale ofPrisoners.

At the entrance of the United States into the war, the attitude ofprisoners was either that of open histility to the cause of the Allies or a somewhat

meek submissiveness to their, as they termed it, "unjust internment" insisting that they had never engaged in any traffic or transmission compromising the welfare of this country.

At the time when the War Prison Barracks were established, the camps at Forts McPherson and Oglethorpe contained about an equal number of alien enemies; some of them actual prisoners of war; that is, officers or men actively in the armed forces of the enemy at the time of their internment; some of them civilians interned in accordance with the President's proclamation. Later, through transfers of civilian prisoners to Oglethorpe and transfers of war prisoners from other camps, McPherson becaue exclusively populated by genuine prisoners of war; to it, for example, prisoners were transferred from Fort Douglas, some of whom, in the early months of internment, had been detained at other points, notably at Schofield Barracks, Honolulu; also the crew from the German U-boat 58, captured in European waters by the American destroyer "Fanning" was transferred to McPherson after a period of internment at Kegworth in England. About a year after the establishment of McPherson as a War Prison Barracks a few civilian aliens, members of German merchant crews, were bfought from the canal zone and interned at McPherson, thus changing slightly the classification between the prisoners at the different forts which formed the principle of the transfers carried out in the autumn of 1917. The make-up of Fort Douglas, after the transfer of prisoners of war referred to above, was largely of I.W.W. sympathizers, adventurers of various sorts, followers ofPastor Russell's pacifistic doctrines, enemy suspects of Western States, including a number of prominent business men, and a miscellaneous collection of German and Austro-Hungarians, interned from the western part of the country.

At Oglethorpe we find E. K. Victor, gentleman-farmer ofGranite, Viriginia, and father of a family, long residentof this country, noisily upholding the cause of the Fatherland, and bitterly denouncing its opponents. Throughout the course of the war his correspondence was one long, unavailing whine at his bitterlot. Adelbert Fischer furnishes continued interest through his more demonstrative wife living in Philadelphia, Helene Koerting-Fischer; Consol R. H. Otto claims attention through his British wife, loud in her applause of Germany and its methods, continually blaming the newspapers for their inaccuracy and distortions. Some characteristic phrases occurring in her correspondence are: "You befriended and shielded the U.S.A. and where are you to-day? How many friends would do what you and I have done for our English andAmerican friends? Mitchell Palmer ..wishes to destroy your land." "Unheated barracks to kill of Germans, so that there will be none left to tell their sufferings." "Foch is German and even Pershing had to admit his'Abstamm&" Edward Lutz, formerly of Pensacola, Florida, is interestingnot only on his own account, a man of intelligence and of wide business and social connections, whose comment on camp life and on world events have been significant, but also on account of his wife, a persistent correspondent, writing from her apartment in the Biltmore, where she lived for the sake of economy. The quartette of prominent wives is completed by Mrs. Emil Mayer, Tuckerton, N.J., whose pro-German utterances were somewhat mitigated by her keen sense of humor and caustic criticism.

Others of the more intelligent prisoners at Oglethorpe were Luhrmann,

Count Albrecht de Montgelas, Francis Norbert, Dr. Kuhnwald, Carl Muck, W.L. Dumbar, and Clemens Hass. Muck, former leader of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, was not as interesting a prisoner as one might suppose; his chief contribution to our files was a long letter to the Legation of Switzerland asserting his Swiss citizenship, to which a rather caustic reply was made. Francis Norbert we know chiefly through his two women friends, Miss Cora Becker, Beaver Street, New York City, and Miss Annabelle Lee, Food Administration, Washington, D.C., both of whom, while exertingall their influence to have him released, kept him plentifully supplied with funds.

It may be stated generally that the attitude at Oglethorpe during the period ofinternment, was oneof complaint and pretended ignorance of the cause of internment.

At McPherson, some outstandingnames were Nizychowski, Brinkmann, Zuckschwert, Thierfelder, Thiericherns, Capt. Grasshof, Freiher von der Bussche Munsch, Heinrich Roepke.

The bulk of letters at McPherson was for and from Germany and domestic letters were comparatively rare. The correspondence of Count Niezychowski with the wife of a United States Admiral was interesting for its impropriety and measures were suggested whereby this correspondence ceased. Heinrich Roepke contributed a highly interesting and valuable account of the capture by the U.S. "Fanning" of the U-boat 58 and the transfer ofits crew from Liverpool to the United States. While for the most part the feeling of these prisoners was distinctly pro-German, there were fewer petty complaints and unjust criticisms of their treatment than at the other forts.

After the transfer from Douglas to McPherson of a large numberoof genuine prisoners of war, the former was made up chiefly of adventurers of various sorts, I.W.W. sympathizers and followers of pacifist religious sects, notable among them the Russellites.

Among the more important and interesting prisoners at Ft. Douglas, who were neither I.W.W. agitatorsor Russellites, one may mention Richard Wackerow, and Alvo von Alversleben. The former was oneof the most prominent of the German propagandists, under whose supervision the famous "Golden Book for the German Empress" was prepared and autographs secured; in addition to the investigation of a considerable mass of miscellaneous papers belonging to Wackerow, showing many names of German sympathizers, especially among the German Lutheran clergy, this office was especially interested in the financial relationships of the prisoner and his connection with Miss Emmy Witzke in New York, who was one ofhis agents and for a time appearedin the correspondence as his niece. Alversleben was a prominent business man on the Western coast.

The Russellites would notat first appear to be disloyal, but when scrutinized, their doctrine of non-allegiance to any form of Government save the Kingdom of Heaven, became a decided menace, and might have proved a serious deterrent to the successful outcome of the war. Walter J. Piezarek, who died of influenza, was the chief mouthpiece of this organization and his correspondents spread outto the four quarters of the globe; India, Brazil, Argentine, England were the destination of much well-meant, though ignorantly bombastic, literature from the simple-minded creature who had attempted,

as he told on every occasion, to cross the Mexican border nearNogales without permit, South America being his objective, to preach the gospel according to Pastor Russell, to the natives along the Amazon. Charles Brand at Oglethorpe, another Russellite, was somewhat more reserved in his written speech, as was George Martinich at Douglas, both doubtless well-meaning, but unbalanced in their judgment of values and events. It was the policy of this office to discourage this form of propaganda by thedetention of many of these letters and by the excision from others of Biblical references, which, by their numerical notation, might contain code or secret messages.

During the course of the war, the attitude of these groups ofprisoners varied little; we find in some instances prisoners, owing the advanced barbed wire mania, losing their balance and becoming insane. At Oglethorpe, Gumpold and Drapal are examples of mental unbalance, probably caused by the barbed wire. The latter was conspicuous for several letters addressed to Woodrow Wilson, one containing a ravingdoggerel in Austrian dialect, extolling the Kaiser and the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Not a few, whose mental poise was overthrown by internment, were sentto St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D.C.

At Oglethorpe, Vietor, a first comer, still occupied the lime-light at intervals; we find him pausing to admonish his daughter Laura not to affiliate herself with the Red Cross, or to attend the Lutheran Church at Richmond, Va., where American National Anthems were being substituted for the German Choral and the sermon was preached in English. Consul Otto becomes vocal through his wife, who increases her protests and vehemence against her own country, England, in proportion as the hopes of German victory vanish. During the middle period of internment, the supporters of the Fatherland never losttheir blindfaith that Germany must and would win, would fight to the last man, that her armies were unbeatable, that the perfidious English, the Revengeful French and the dollar-mad Yankees would be brought to realize the folly of this struggle and quit of their own accord.

The attitude of the prisoners toward this country, toward their own country, and toward underlying principles involved in the Great War, was observed and recorded when of interest or value. The desire on the part of prisoners of war and interned enemy aliens to remain in this country and become citizens was noted in scatteringcases from the beginning of the period of internment. After the armistice, the number of persons who thus expressed their desires became very great. Toward the end of the second period, hope for release came in the formof exchange of prisoners to be arrangedat the conference at Berne, but was without result owing to the signing of the armistice. Little change in attitude was shown at McPherson during this period. Political discussion, slander of government and criticisms of officials, were lessfrequent than at the other forts, doubtless owing to their well-defined status as prisoners of war and their own recognition of it. An interesting phase is seen at Douglas where the followers ofPastor Russell interpreted events in the progress of the war along the line ofBiblical prophecy and maintained that each development was according to the dreams depicted in Revelations; their internment they interpreted as a king of martyrdom, foreordained, their "Via Crucis" to the "Millenium". These prisoners were not difficult to deal with, being wholly pacifistic in their attitude, yet their propaganda, if allowed to flourish and spread beyond the camp, might have had a disastrous effect on the outcome of the war.

One of the startling revelations to one who observed the morale of the interns during the course of the war, was the change in attitude resulting from the signing of the armistice. Many were stunned by the news of defeat and some refused to believe the newspapers. Many letters showed a colorless effort to encourage optimism, to "make the best of it", mingled with genuine anxiety as to the fate of their families in the midst of social conditions in Germany. Many, anticipating their return, acknowledged frankly theseverity of the taska awaiting them in the country overwhelmingly over burdened. Many, too, sought to gain satisfaction from noting the number of Germany's enemies, and frequent, indeed, was the reference to the German adage: "Viele Hunde sind des Hasen Tod"....(Many dogs are the death of the hare.) Many, who were the loudest in praises of Germany and in her institutions, declared their approval of the change in government, denouncing the Kaiser and placing the blame on him; and stating their intention to stay in this country. Adolfvon Klief, Oglethorpe, writes on Dec. 2, 1918: "I am glad toat the war is at an end, and that our free land America has won. In my opinion Germany will be better off as a republic than as an empire ....as soon as I am set free I shall make an effort to become a citizen (American), for I have already once sworn the oath of fidelity to the United States, and have found there really a new home."

M.O. Heinemann, prisoner in McPherson, writes to his family in Kiel... "who is now the real worker in Kiel? Let us hope it is the Social Democrats. How can you get along now without your dear Kaiser. I hope you have chased Prince Henry and the other parasites out of the gates of Kiel. On account of these scoundrels, millions have had to lose their lives and millions will have to bear their debts for a long time. I hope the German people has waked up now and will choose leaders who have already before the war worked against the old Government."

From the censor's report at McPherson, August, 1918: "There is a decided change of mood on the part of the prisonersof war at this post since the beginning of Franco-American successes. It is an open secret that many of the prisoners internedhere do not care one straw how the war comes out - which means practically that they want America and her Allies to win."

Naturally there were many exceptions, as in the case of Brinkmann at McPherson, who writes Nov. 16, 1918: "Truly no more terrible news can come to a prisoner ofwar than that his companions in arms have gone under, but after all, joy in me gets the upper hand. I see the dear homeland before me and rejoice that I shall soon be Permitted to see it again."

An interesting comment is that of Udo Rall, Fort Douglas, in which he says: "Long live the Revolution, may the German people do as thorough a job as the Russians did. May the seed sprout into a tree andbear fruit. May the deed find imitators in other free countries! I am afraid, though, that the bureaucratic ghost will hannt the Germans for a long time to come."

For two final instances we might quote the words ofHeinrich Joergen in a letter ofNovember 23, 1918, to Germany: "We must therefore not bow our heads; we have still men out of the people whom nature has endowed with gifts, not like our nobility, born stupid, who ruled our Nation by force of their titles. The German people has won a great victory, which will be granted even by its enemies." Paul Haasa writes December 7, 1918, to Mrs.

Mary Papenforth, Wyoming, Ohio: "How is it that one can say 'poor Germany'? We are not witnesses ofa general catastrophe, nay, of a Renaissance. What a privilege to be permitted to assist at the birth of such an era. To be sure, at this time much is not progressing according to our desire. One thing I assure you: the land of our fathers is not like a fallen tree, without a claimant, upon which anyone who comes along may make kindling wood. No one trusts a ship to a pilot who has not learned his calling. One thing is sure, greater demands will be made upon us, than heretofore. We will have to accustom ourselves to other customs and ways. A greater knowledge and power will surely be demanded ofus."

Diplomatic Correspondence.

The office kept on file copies ofall letters written by prisoners of war or interned aliens to the diplomatic representative ofthe protecting powers, the Legation of Switzerland for German subjects, and the Legation of Sweden for subjects of Austria-Hungary, together with copies of a very large number of replies from these Legations. This mass of correspondence is thought to be pf peculiar value in showing the relationship of the prisoners to their homeland, maintained through the diplomatic representative, and giving an accurate idea of the diplomatic activities in their behalf.

Miscellaneous Activities of the Subsection.

In April 1918, the office of the censor, then still part of M.I. 4, was requested to take charge ofthe examination of the so-called Swiss Intermediary Mail. This mail consisted ofletters written to this country and forwarded to Germany, through a cover address in Switzerland, or letters destined for addresses in this country and sent from Germany through Swiss Intermediaries. This class included also letters actually written in Switzerland or directed to residents in Switzerland, but containing information which was obviously to be transmitted to or from Germany. These letters were sent to the Military Intelligence Section through the Liaison Officer with the French Postal Censor. The censor's office prepared a card catalog of residents of Switzerland thus serving as intermediaries, lists of whom were sent out to officers and officials to whom such lists would be of value. A card catalog of residents ofAmerica who tried this method of indirect communicationwith Germany, or who were addressees of letters thus transmitted, was also prepared. Information gathered from this correspondence as to the activities of the Rev. J. C. Welwood, Pastor of the American Church in Dresden, Germany, who remained in Germany during the war; and the case ofConrad Hoffman, an American Y.M.C.A. worker, who visited German prison camps and at the same time had seemingly free ascess through neutral countries to correspondence in America.

In August 1918, the censor's office took over the control of the censorship of transport mail in the so-called sub-ports. This work had previously been carried on in the office of the Chief Military Censor. During the time that this subsection was in charge of this particular class of mail, in addition to the task of censorship in the narrower

sense, the office undertook to supply information as to the morale of the soldiers embarking for over seas service. Extracts of letters were copied, either in original or translation, attention being paid particularly to information in letters written by soldiers of Italian or modern Greek origin. The censorship of this class of mail was later transferred entirely to the office of the Mail Censor, Port ofEmbarkation, Hoboken, N. J.

American Prisoner of War Mail.

In accordance with an agreement with the office of the Adjutant General, the subsection assumed control of mail received from American Prisoners of War in German Prison Camps. From lists supplied by the office of The Adjutant General, supplemented by lists sent by the Headquarters of the American Red Cross, a card catalog was maintained of American Prisoners of War in German camps, containing names, ranks, serial numbers, emergency addresses and other information derived from their correspondence. Letter and postcards received from American Prisoners of War in Germany were examined with a view to determining the treatment accorded to American prisoners. Through examination of this correspondence it was possible to gain a fairly accurate idea of German control of prisoner of war mail, the extent of postal privileges, and the like. Dates of letters or cards were compared with postmarks in order to establish the German practice in despatch of such mail. It was noted that in many cases mail had been delayed for entirely unreasonable periods before despatch, and many letters and cards were six months and more in reaching this country.

The total amount of such correspondence received was exceedingly small, and in view of the liberal correspondence privileges allowed to German prisoners in the War Prison Barracks in this country, a memorandum was prepared for the Chief ofStaff, with a letter from the Secretary of War to the Secretary of State, suggesting that measures of retaliation be taken in case further investigation showed that American Prisoners were being deprivedof their reciprocal rights.

It had been arrangedthat on the removal of the subsection to New York, it should take over the control and censorship of amil addressed to American Prisoners of War in Germany, incoming mail from American Prisoners of War having been controlledby the subsectionfor some months. Arrangements were being made for the transfer from the Postal Censorship Committee to this section of examiners and clerks to take charge of this class of mail, and a memorandum recommending the necessary transfers was addressed to the Director of Military Intelligence. Meanwhile, the section assumed a supervisory control over this mail, particularly of outgoing packages. Before action was taken on the memorandum the armistice was signed, which provided for the immediate return of all Allied prisoners of war held by the Central Powers.

For a time all outgoing mail was held pending instructions from the office of The Adjutant General. In accordance with instructions dated November 21, 1918, all letters addressed to American Prisoners of War, at that time held by this office, were forwarded to the Central Records Office, A.E.F., France. In accordance with later instructions, all packages similary addressed were despatched to the same destination after examination. After

that time the office received a few letters, averaging one hundred a week, addressed to American prisoners of war in Germany, most letters, in accordance with instructions published in the public prints, being sent directly and not through this office.

After the removal of the office to New York, other prisoner of war mail passed through our hands in considerable quantities and in great variety. Letters addressed to German prisoners in England, France & Italy, to British and French prisoners in Germany or Austria, to prisoners in the Azores, from prisoners in Haiti, interns in South America, in Japan and China, India, and so on, were submitted for disposition. Considerable quantitles of mail written by German prisoners held by the American Expeditionary Forces in Vladivostok and Krasnape-Rjetschke were censored and despatched; from this mail material was collected as to conditions among the prisoners in Siberia. The office kept a card catalog of prisoners held by the American Forces in Siberia.

Mail addressed to Russian prisoners in Germany or Austria, and mail from German or Austrian prisoners in Russia or Siberia, other than those held by the American Forces, was detained in this office after the armistice, since the status of these prisoners, or former prisoners, seemed indefinite. Lists of prisoners in Russia or Siberia together with correspondents in this country were compiled from this correspondence as of possible value to the Allied Forces.

The following may be said in concluding this account of the activities of the subsection: the work of censorship or prisoner of war mail did not cease with the signing of the armistice. There was a decrease in the American prisoner of war mail, but the work in connection with the correspondence of the German and Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war in the War Prison Barracks in this country continued undiminished. It may be said as well that this correspondence increased in interest, as external events rendered the relationship of prisoners to the outside world, both present and prospective, of more immediate importance; th expression of opinion both on the part of those in the camps and their correspondents without became of great significance. Some tongues were loosened in praise of Germany, thereby adding a considerable number of suspects to our files. This newer aspect of the correspondence, which threatened in the multitude of cases to sink into a monotonous routine, was expected to maintain its interest through the rest of the period of internment. The whole story of the censorship of prisoner of war mail cannot be written until the War Prison Barracks are abandoned and the former interns wave their farewells to American shores, an act, which, judging by their correspondence, will be attended with mixed emotions on their part, but not on ours.