

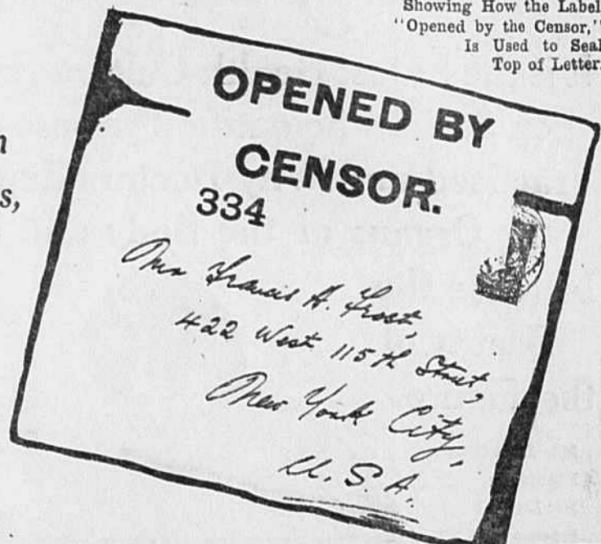
# The Iron Hand of the Censor



The Man Most Disliked by the Journalists of Paris, M. Gautier, Chief French Censor.

How it Moves in All the Nations at War, Cutting and Blotting Out Forbidden Allusions in Private Letters, Press Correspondence and in Printed Intelligence—Something About the Men Who Do the Rough Work of Censuring

Showing How the Label, "Opened by the Censor," is Used to Seal Top of Letter.



"SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE." THE attack by the enemy on the front was directed against the wood on the road. The corps commanded by Gen. the attack. The enemy made progress in the woods around.

If you should take this for a missing word puzzle you would not be altogether wrong, for it is a puzzle because of the missing words. However, it is not the usual kind of a puzzle you customarily pick for solution, but is an example of the work of a new kind of a puzzle-maker who owes his existence to the necessities of war. His kind is the most hated of all men in any of the warring nations, where practically every one who writes feels in some way the work of his invisible hands.

He is the iron-handed war censor, whom the people of Paris call "an indefinable person with 19 tentacles and, apparently, without a single head." It is his duty to delete from newspapers, letters and telegrams and other forms of written communications all news, information, opinion and gossip which, in his judgment, should be prevented from becoming known even to his own countrymen as well as to the enemies of his country.

### Universally Hated.

The censor's sharp eyes, his sharper scissors, blue pencil or his brush and pot of heavy black ink are, in their way, mightier than the modern guns of the greatest callier. With his own simple weapons the censor easily can "kill" any written communication that comes within his

entered Mexico in pursuit of the bandit Villa, the rigors of censorship began to be felt in this country, especially by the newspapers, as a result of President Wilson's warning against "border rumors." In all between only 250 and 300 words of press messages were allowed to be transmitted over the military telegraph each day, divided equally between the writers at the front. Mail matter, however, generous attempts often are made to "get by" the censor by smuggling written messages or photographs out of the country. To prevent such attempts as these from becoming successful each of the warring nations is required to maintain wonderfully organized bureaus of censors upon whom are imposed an enormous task. One of the most interesting things in connection with the war is the

Gen. Kleinow, Chief of the German Censors in the Poland District, in His Workroom at Warsaw.



Gen. von Bussing, German Military Commander, and Careful Censor.



great mass of literature—writings wrung from the very hearts of the writers—all systematically arranged. As fast as one big heap is disposed of another takes its place.

The whole service of these bureaus is under strict military control, and a certain quantity of work is insisted upon in each individual case. No indiscreet revelations are tolerable. The chiefs of departments and the administrators are all of the rank of military officers, and discipline is rigidly maintained. Each lot, be it letter, package or card, must be stamped twice before it is allowed to proceed on its way. The chief censor's signature must be attached to everything.

The Austrian censors probably meet with a greater diversity of languages and dialects than any of their brother censors, ally or enemy. For this reason the censors' bureau in Vienna has 20 different sections, according to the idiom employed. There are coming in the polyglot tongues of Austria-Hungary—Polish, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German and others. And there go out epistles in even more varied languages. For all of them there are readers and translators—for Russian, Serbian, French, English, Italian, Yiddish, Rutenian, Roumanian, Greek, Lettish, Estonian, Livonian, Finnish and Turkmenian—a very Babel of tongues.

How a Piece of Manuscript from a Press Correspondent Was Edited by the Censor.

### The English Censor.

The English bureau of censors is divided into two main departments, the censorship of private and commercial communications, under the army council and the press bureau.

The censors inspect all press matter which comes to the bureau and because of the press of this business have to work in day and night shifts. By government order all press cable messages to, from or through London are diverted by the postoffice and the cable companies into the censor's office. Messages sent into the bureau also include inland press tele-

Censored Postal Card from Germany.



This morning when I paid a visit to the German Admiralty Office, I was fortunate enough to be able to enter into a conversation with Captain [redacted] of the German Navy on submarine war-fare in general and the exploits of German submarine boats in particular. The topic, evidently, was one of [redacted] considerable personal interest to this naval gentleman who has stood on the deck of war-vessels in all parts of the globe. His keen grey eyes snapped with [redacted] the intensity of his feelings as he elucidated the merits and - yes, it must and can be said - the [redacted] of the submarine service. In substance [redacted] remarked:

Yesterday we had a terrible experience when [redacted] You may imagine how this stirred the whole country hereabouts. They say this [redacted]

A Private Letter from England as Edited by Censor.

operation of the censors' bureau, grams if they, even in the slightest way, refer to the war. To facilitate the passage of matter through the hands of the censor a tube has been put into operation between the press bureau and the central telegraph office. As soon as a

"line of attack." The degree of ability shown by the war censor, leaving the matter of judgment out of the question, is indicated by the number of communications he passes and the amount of information he deletes. The people and the press of all the countries at war, as well as those of neutral nations, too, are chafing under the rigid censorship which has been so thoroughly established.

Throughout Europe the censorship is generally characterized as "malevolent and stupid, and as a means to destroy trade of enemies with neutrals." This is some indication of the mighty power wielded by the war censors, who are described as trying to deceive friend and foe into believing that they do not really exist. Shortly after the American army

could be sent out by military post, after inspection by the military censor.

The Japanese army in the struggle against Russia was the pioneer in the present policy of conducting war on the most modern lines of secrecy. The Japanese even carried their attempts to keep the enemy in the dark so far that none of their soldiers, it was said, wore any regimental marks on their uniforms.

### How the Censor Works.

Because of all these iron-handed methods of secrecy fighting the censor has become one of the most thrilling sports nowadays. The censors reduce practically all written communications to mere stereotyped phrases containing little if any information, as a result of which in-

message is filed it is rushed through the tube, censored and dispatched back to the telegraph or cable office, and the memorandum instances as proof of the speedy work of the censor that only six minutes are taken to make the trip and return.

The influence of the English cable censor is far-reaching, for through his service he not only controls some 120 cable and wireless stations in various parts of the world, but he controls in the United Kingdom messages sent over the cables of private cable companies as well as those transmitted over the government wires. It is said that from 30,000 to 50,000 telegrams pass through the censor's hands each 24 hours.

### Censor's All-Seeing Eye.

All cables are liable to be stopped which show clear evidence, either by the text or by the known facts, as to the sender or addressee, that they relate to a transaction, whether in contraband or non-contraband, to which a resident in an enemy country is one of the parties. The cable censors—and there are about 400 of them—are, with few exceptions, retired naval and military officers, many of whom were in commercial life when the war came.

Like the cable censorship, the postal censorship is designed to exercise a supervision over correspondence. All mails which have to be censored are subjected to a slight delay, but harmless letters are not stopped, even when coming from an enemy country or addressed to a person known to be an enemy. A letter in code or "secret" writing has not much of a chance to get by the censor, even though it is apparent that the messages have nothing to do with the war.

Letters coming directly from the area of military operations are in

most cases censored locally, under orders of the field marshal or general officer commanding in chief the forces in the field. Those that appear to have escaped the censor are sent by the postoffice to the censors in London.

A great number of amusing incidents have occurred as the result of a censor's misdirected efforts. One notable instance gave evidence of a British censor's antipathy to poetry, as indicated by deletions of lines of Kipling, when quoted in dispatches from the front. A newspaper correspondent had the audacity to quote the following well known lines:

The tumult and the shouting dies,  
The captains and the kings depart.

The revised version of the second line after transmission to the censor read as follows: "The captains . . . depart." No mention of kings was permitted.

Newspapers in Paris have found a way of flogging the censor in political matters. One of the leading papers of the French capital was ordered to suppress a cartoon satirizing the proposed nomination of parliamentarians as "commissioners of the armies." The publishers simply inclosed a proof of the cartoon to all subscribers.

Georges Clemenceau, a Paris editor, has adopted the same plan with censored editorials, inclosing them under cover to all the deputies and senators with letter postage.

### Censuring the Kaiser.

To enforce censorship the printing plant and two days' issue of a London newspaper recently were seized because the publication, it was reported, was unrestrained in its denunciations of members of the cabinet, and its assertions that Lord Kitchener had resigned on account of "manoeuvres and machinations." Gabriel D'Annunzio, the Italian

writer, composed an ode to the Serbians, but the censor "shot it full of holes." It was also announced that the Italian censor has held up communications addressed by Pope Benedict to officials of the Catholic church in Germany.

Even the Kaiser is censored in Germany. It was reported that the German censor cut several sentences from the Kaiser's recent speech to the Prussian guard. The Cologne Gazette, commenting on this report, asserted the censor also scissored out several paragraphs of another speech made by the Emperor a few weeks ago before permitting the official news agency to circulate it. Goethe also was said to have fallen under the ban of the censor, who struck out quotations from the great poet.

Richard Strauss, the composer, received from the censor a reception similar to that accorded Mr. Kipling. Some of the orchestral parts of his "Alps" symphony were objected to by the censor. It was broadly hinted that the ban had fallen upon those passages that seemingly carried its hearers into the Alpine fastnesses of the enemy's country. It was pointed out that Mr. Strauss, by an oversight, disregarded the political boundary lines in his composition, with the result that the censor found it his imperative duty to delete all references to the enemy's successful seizure of certain parts of these well known mountains. It was reported also that the censor harbored a strong prejudice against yodeling.

Men over 40 are practically proof against enteric fever.

Since 1896 the mean age for marriage has steadily increased, and in 1914 it was 29.11 for men, and 26.4 for women.