

MORE ON CENSORSHIP IN WORLD WAR ONE

By Dr. Giovanni Bonello LL.D.

Great Britain entered the First World War on August 4, 1914, when its ultimatum to Germany expired the previous midnight. On August 3, 1914, on the eve of Britain's entry in the conflict, Government Notice No 124 was published in Malta to institute and regulate censorship.

A number of other Government Notices and Regulations consolidated, amended or repealed the official enactments which were periodically published to regulate censorship. The English text of these enactments is reproduced as an Appendix to this article.

The various Notices etc., refer to a Censor, a Press Censor, a Postal Censor, a Senior Censor and a Military Censor. It is not always clear whether these designate different functions in the same officer, or different officers.

The first rules dealt with the enforcement of censorship, the ban on military matters in communications, publications in and outside Malta, printed and telegraphic communications. These were later supplemented by various other orders relating to the importation of newspapers from hostile and neutral countries, picture postcards, shipping documents, telegraphic messages, etc.

The highly comprehensive **Malta Defence Regulations 1916** had special sections on censorship, including the powers of the Senior Censor.

The various enactments give some indication on how the process of censorship was set in motion. The Press Censorship office was first situated at the Garrison Library, Piazza Regina; later at Castille, and finally at 28, Second Floor, Strada Britannica, Valletta. All communications intended for publication abroad had to be submitted there. Mail and cable communications subject to censorship had to be handed in direct to the post or telegraph administration.

Special rules were introduced for "picture postcards and other pictorial representations of local subjects". These could not be sold, exhibited or detained for sale without the previous permission of the Press Censor. A duplicate specimen of any set of postcards had to be approved and stamped with the censor's mark.

The handstamps used for censorship purposes on mail and other material attracted the special attention of the Malta Defence Regulations 1916. The last part of Regulation 31 made it a criminal offence for any person who, without lawful authority, used or attempted to obtain any stamp or similar pattern used by the Censor or by his assistants or by his staff, or for any person to use any imitation of the stamp used by the Censor.

Hitherto all handstamps recorded seem to have been those which **permitted** transmission or publication ("Passed by Censor"). I believe that a special handstamp existed which **prohibited** transmission or publication. I am publishing this handstamp "Censored". (Fig. 1)

CENSORSHIP RE-INTRODUCED

The censorship regulations had a chequered history. Introduced in 1914 and enforced for the duration of the War, they were "cancelled" on February 20, 1919. But on the outbreak of the *Sette Giugno* riots of 1919, two Government Notices warned the public that all printed matter had to be submitted to the Press Censor before publication; that Regulation 31 of the Malta Defence Regulations (the one relating to censorship) was still in operation and that the censorship withdrawn on the 3rd February 1919 (sic) had been re-established.

Censorship was further reasserted on September 11, 1919, two months after the riots,

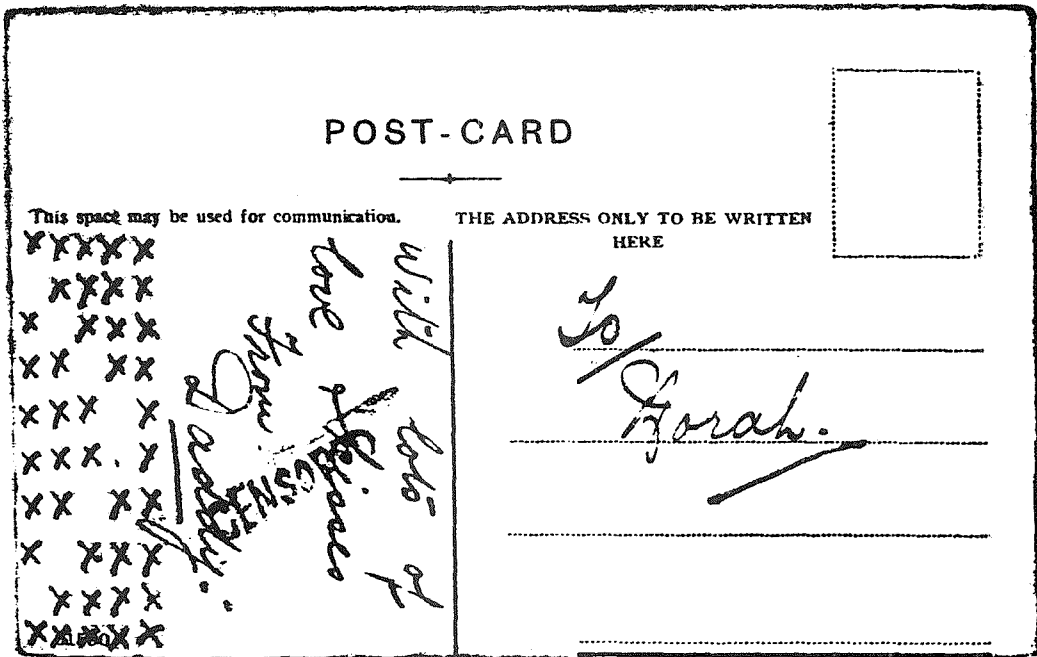


FIG.1 Postcard showing Valletta Customs House on the picture side and the handstamp "CENSORED" in red (25mm) on the back. This card was probably objected to as the patten of 'love' crosses under the message could have concealed a code. The faint handstamp has been retouched in this illustration.

although a relative calm had replaced the tension of those bloodstained days.

It was only in October 25, 1921, three years after the War ended, that official censorship was finally abolished.

The Circular and Triangular censorship cachets (CS-C and CS-T) have been extensively studied and recorded on incoming and outgoing mail. I here propose to record another two uses which, as far as I am aware, have not been noted before. Besides certifying mail, the same handstamps were used in the prior censorship of publications in Malta, and on pictorial illustrations which were sent abroad for publication.

1. THE LOCAL PRESS

In accordance with war regulations, articles for the local press had to be submitted to the government Censor for approval. In practice, these were submitted in galley proof form. The proofs were then examined by the Censors and stamped with the same circular or triangular cachets which were used to certify mail.

The items I have seen went through the hand of Censors No 1086 and 1087 (circular) and No 4158, 4159 and 4264 (triangular).

As these numbers have not been recorded on letters, it is reasonable to assume that to these particular Censors was entrusted the task of vetting articles which were to appear in the local press (Fig. 2, 3,4)

The Press Censor quite often pencilled out important parts of the original article. Permission to publish only came with the red-inked or blue-pencilled note "as amended".

del 1849 ha potuto continuare a ~~gover-~~
~~narci~~ per oltre 30 anni; a causa delle no-
stre discordie la Costituzione del 1887
venne mutilata e resa quasi nulla ed a
causa della nostra disunione, se non si
metterà tosto riparo, finiremo col perdere
di nuovo quel poco che abbiamo, invece di
accrescerlo e migliorarlo come è necessario
nell'interesse del paese.

Sarebbe quindi una pazzia la nostra se
invece di cercare di raccoglierci tutti come
fratelli sotto un solo vessillo, quello del
Partito Nazionalista che ci ha sempre
condotti alla vittoria, dovessimo scegliere
di continuare a tenerci divisi e sparpaglia-
ti, ciascuno seguendo una bandiera per sè
e combattendoci l'un l'altro come nemici:
noi segneremo con ciò la nostra condanna
e daremo alle Autorità Imperiali un'altro
pretesto per negarci le franchigie che do-
mandiamo e per governarci non più da
nomini pratici ma da ragazzi inesperti.

Riflettano dunque bene gli elettivi prima
di andare alle urne, dove tra giorni saran-
no chiamati, alle conseguenze del loro atto
nella scelta tra i due programmi che sono
loro sottomessi, il programma della discor-
dia di Monsignor Panzavecchia e quello
dell'unione del Partito Nazionalista, e non
vogliamo aggiungere altra follia alle tante
già in questi ultimi anni pur troppo com-
messe contro i nostri più insistenti avver-
timenti.

Per parte nostra il nostro dovere l'ab-
biamo compiuto e lo stiamo compiendo e
compiremo fino alla fine, e quindi riget-
tiamo da noi ogni responsabilità di qual-
unque errore di giudizio che l'elettorato
potrà essere indotto a commettere contro i
migliori interessi del paese.

F. AZZOPARDI P.L.

As amended

FIG.2 A galley proof of an article due to appear in MALTA on March 9, 1915, written by Francesco Azzopardi, a leading politician and sometime leader of the Partito Nazionale. Passed by Censor 1087 with some words obliterated.

CAUCHI, M.D.

istano 500c. c.

na, devono essere pulite ed ermeticamen
ughero oppure a smeriglio.

ecente è bene agginngere 20 a 25 gramm
nno di acido Borico e, nello stesso temp

a carta da visita col nome dell'interessao
riua (esame chimico e microscopio)

a Farmacia Cumbo.

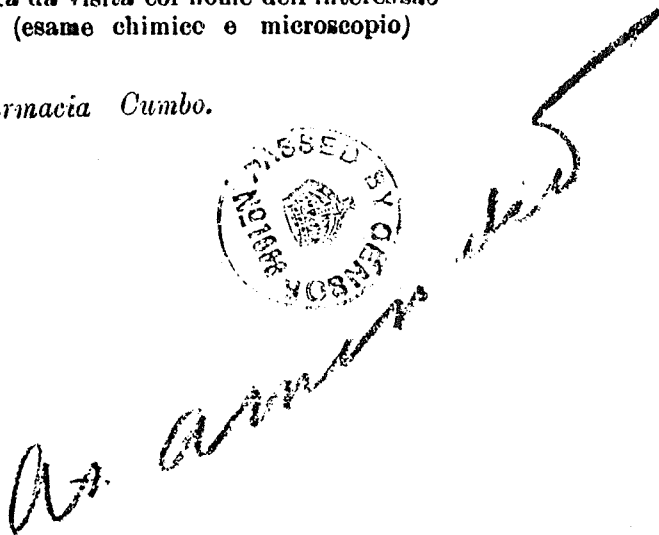


FIG. 3 Corner of two pages of proof, IL PATRIOTA, May 1, 1915, with substantial cuts by Censor 1088.

Although Germany accepted the armistice on November 11, 1918, the censorship marks on mail only disappeared in July 1919. In the press galley proofs they appear as late as August 7, 1920, owing to the reintroduction of press censorship after the *Sette Giugno* riots (Fig. 5).

Material intended for publication in the overseas press also went through the mail certified by the Press Censor. I am publishing a registered letter to the Daily Telegraph in London, passed by Press Censor No 4158 (Fig. 6).

2. ILLUSTRATIONS SENT OVERSEAS

The same censorship that regulated mail, applied perhaps even more forcefully, to photographs sent overseas during World War One.

The Censors who vetted local publications were entrusted with approving, or objecting to, photographs which were to be sent abroad. Thus, in the Circular Series, I have seen No 1087 and 1088, and in the Triangular series, No 4159, stamping the back of photos destined to be sent abroad (Fig.7).

Some photographs did not get through the Censor, and were returned with a red-pencilled "objected to" prominently scrawled on the back. But the criteria to allow or disallow transmission seem to have varied considerably. One photo of the Grand Harbour showing some warships was objected to, but an identical copy got through with a circular "passed by censor".

Governo sono realmente quelle esposte dall' on. Azzopardi, esse non serviranno certo a cementare la lealtà e l'affetto del Popolo Maltese per la Corona Britannica.

In attesa di una cortese e sollecita risposta, ho l'onore di professarmi di V.E.

Devmo.,

Avv. ENRICO MIZZI.

P.S.—Annetto alla presente il numero di ieri sera del *Malta e sua Dipendenza* (No. 10,225 del 24 Settembre 1917), nel quale è riprodotta in pagina, la suddetta corrispondenza dell' onor. Azzopardi.

E. M.

* *

Ecco ora la risposta del Governo alla suddetta lettera dell'Avv. E. Mizzi:—

No. 2312/17

Lieut.-Governor's Office,
Malta, 28th September 1917.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th September 1917, addressed to His Excellency, drawing attention to a letter which was published in the *Malta* newspaper of the 24th instant, over the signature of the Honourable F. Azzopardi, L.P., and to state in reply that the Government can accept no responsibility for the views expressed by that gentleman in his private capacity.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. O. F. ROBERTSON,

Lieut.-Governor

and Chief Secretary to Govt.

ENRICO MIZZI, Esq.

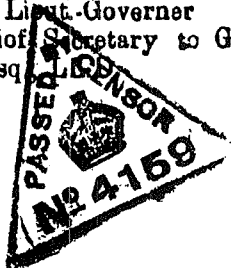


FIG.4 Correspondence between Enrico Mizzi and the Lieutenant Governor, September 1917, passed for publication by Censor 4159.

che potrebbe ferire. I sardi hanno una parlata che è considerata come lingua dai glottologi ma non o'è persona al mondo, oredo, che abbia mai pensato, malgrado i suoi molti pregi, di considerarla come tale praticamente, insegnandola nelle scuole, facendola servire da strumento letterario o scientifico. Ora il Governo sarà anche in bona fede e ignorerà questi precedenti. L'Inghilterra è sempre quella nazione cavalleresca che ha affrontato volontariamente gli orrori d'una lunga guerra per difendere il piccolo Belgio ed è quindi al disopra d'ogni sospetto. Ma abbiamo nel nostro seno—non una vipera, no!—un foglio, e, dico foglio di proposito, che giornale può anche sapere d'onesto, che ha così sempre teneramente difeso i nostri interessi (interesse: che brutta parola, no?) ~~che il paese, messo e spronato da tanto di interesse amore, s'è visto trascinato nella prima decade del settimo mese, dall'anno primo della Pace con la Germania, a murargli un monumento, un'opera che veramente a conti fatti, costerà un po' troppo cara, ma l'amore di un popolo, con tutte le passioni, non è sempre consigliere di modestia.~~ Ora, questo giornale dice una cosa: noi dobbiamo, naturalmente pendere dalle sue labbra, no? Invertiamo, per comodo di argomento soltanto, i casi. Se un nemico mi additasse una via come la più sicura, io, a costo di non arrivarci, piglierei correndo la via opposta. Questa per me è mero senso comune. Per la massa che, pur ha sempre fama di possedere buon senso a pezzi e consigli dei nemici che nome hanno?

Malta; un'eccezione?

UNO DEI TANTI.

264
CENSOR

As Approved
7-8-20

FIG.5 Galley proof of an article for MALTA, approved for publication with heavy deletions by Censor 4264, long after the end of the war; August 7, 1920.

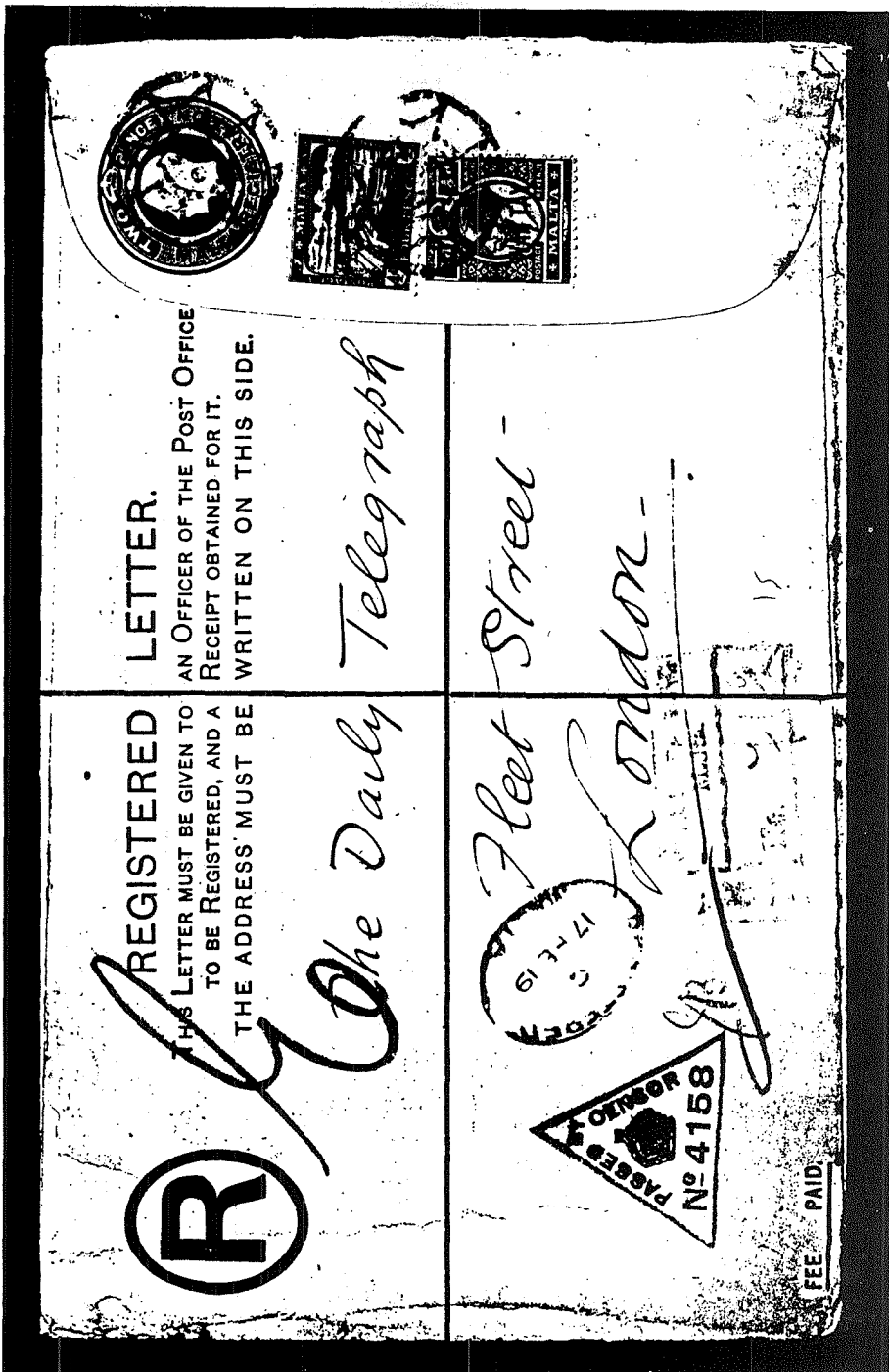


FIG.6 Press material sent to the DAILY TELEGRAPH in UK on February 17, 1919, passed for mail transmission by Censor 4158.

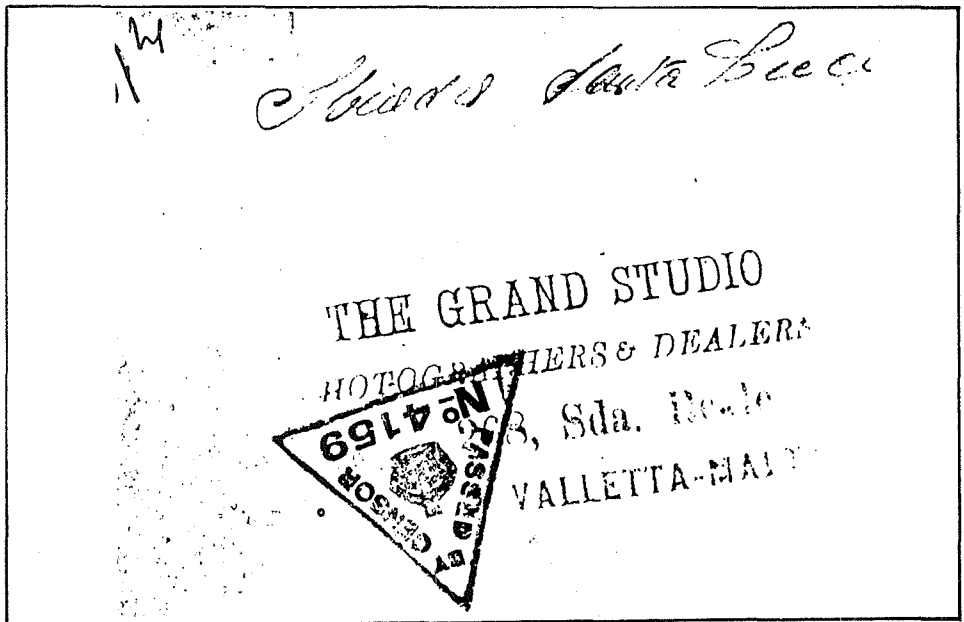
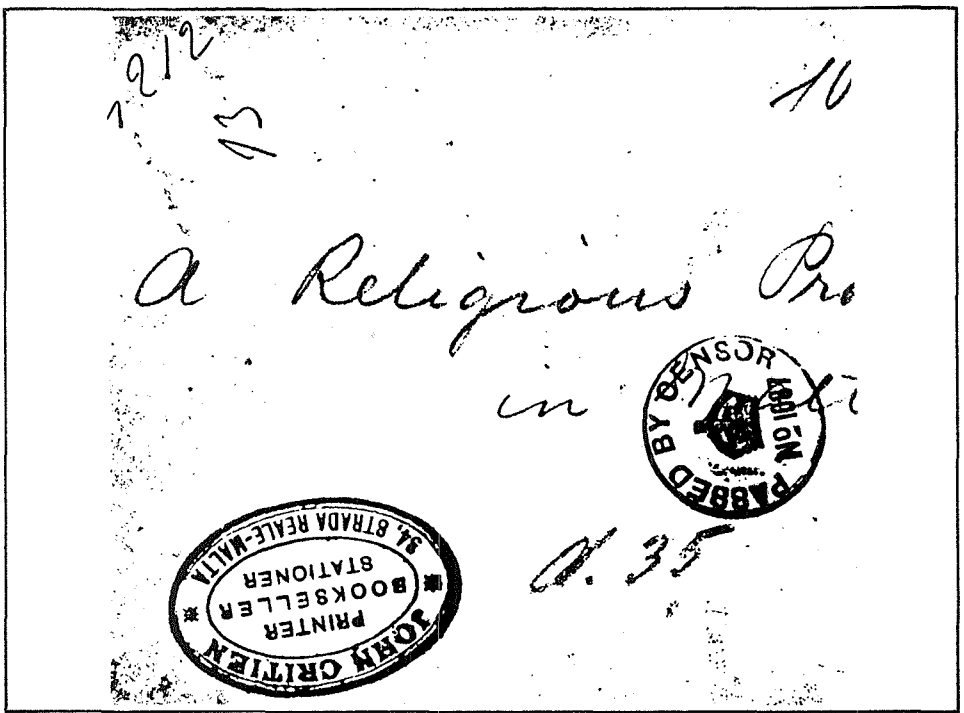


FIG.7 Backs of two photographs with Malta views, sent abroad for printing as postcards, passed by Censors 1087 and 4159 respectively.

APPENDIX

1914

G.N. No 124

IN exercise of the powers vested in him by Her late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October 1896, and otherwise, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following rules with regard to the exercise of censorship.

1. *Enforcement of censorship.*

Until further notice, all letters, packets and messages received or despatched by post and telegraph in or from Malta and its dependencies will be subject to censorship.

2. *No military matter to be discussed in communications.*

In view of the danger that unauthorized persons, and persons actuated by motives hostile to British interests, may obtain access to information contained in private communications from persons in Malta and may utilize such information to the detriment of British interests, all persons are strictly enjoined to refrain from mentioning in any of their correspondence or messages any information regarding the National defences more especially anything relating to the plans of the Naval and Military Commanders and the strength, composition, movements, organization and spirit of His Majesty's naval and military forces.

3. *Publications outside Malta.*

Communications intended for publication in the press elsewhere than in Malta are to be submitted to the press censor at the Garrison Library, Piazza Regina, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., instead of being handed in direct to the post or telegraph Administration. If approved by the censor, they will be transmitted by him to the postal or telegraphic authorities for despatch. Those intended for transmission by post must be stamped before submission, and those by telegraph will, if approved, be passed by the press censor to the telegraph authorities who will notify the sender. The latter will then pay the cost of the message to the telegraph authorities.

4. *Publications in Malta.*

No newspaper, book, pamphlet or other publication is to be published in Malta and its dependencies without previous permission being obtained from the press censor. Information regarding the rules to be observed in this connection is obtainable on application to the press censor.

5. *Postal communications.*

Letters or packets posted for despatch from, or received for delivery in, Malta, are only accepted by the postal authorities on the condition that they are liable to destruction or detention, or delay in transmission at the discretion of the censor and without notice to the sender or the addressee and without any claim lying against the postal or censorship authorities either for refund of the postage paid on them, or on any other grounds on account of such destruction, detention or delay.

6. *Telegraphic communications
(cable and radio-telegraphic).*

Messages written in code, cipher or in any language other than English and French will not be accepted for despatch.

Messages for despatch from, and delivery in, Malta, are only accepted on condition that they are liable, without notification to the sender or addressee, to

be delayed in transmission, paraphrased or suppressed altogether, at the discretion of the censor, and that no refund of money paid for the message will be made on account of such delay, paraphrasing or suppression.

Once a message has been handed in for transmission no alterations will be allowed to be made in it by anyone except the censorship staff.

August 3, 1914.

G.N. No 173

WITH reference to Government Notice No. 124 of the 3rd August 1914, it is hereby notified that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following additional rules respecting the exercise of censorship.

IMPORTATION OF NEWSPAPERS.

The introduction into Malta, through any channel whatsoever, of newspapers originating from hostile or neutral countries is prohibited, except as hereunder —

(a) Editors of local newspapers may import such foreign newspapers as are above referred to up to a limit of two different papers or periodicals at the choice of each editor;

(b) Each issue of either paper or periodical imported must be in duplicate and must be received through the post. One copy of each issue will be delivered to the local editor concerned, after being passed by the press censor and the other copy will be retained by the censor.

Periodicals and newspapers not having a political character may be imported as heretofore, subject to the censorship.

Further information may be obtained on application to the press censor at the Garrison Library, Piazza Regina, during office hours.

September 2, 1914.

1915

G.N. No 87

WHEREAS doubts appear to exist regarding the interpretation of paragraph 4, "Publications in Malta", of the Censorship Rules published by Government Notice No. 124 of the 3rd August 1914, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct it to be notified that the publications referred to in the paragraph abovementioned include picture postcards and any other pictorial representation of local subjects, and that the sale, exhibition for sale, or detention for sale, of any such postcards or other representations, without the previous permission of the Press Censor, shall be treated as a breach of the Censorship Rules recited above.

A duplicate specimen of any set of postcards approved by the Censor shall be stamped with the Censor's mark. One copy of the specimen shall be returned to the owner and shall be evidence of the Censor's approval of the relative set of postcards. The other copy shall be kept by the Censor.

April 10, 1915.

By Command,

LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

The Palace, Valletta.

H. A. BYATT,
Lieutenant-Governor
and Chief Secretary to Government.

It is notified, for general information, that, in order to obviate delays in the removal of goods from wharves and warehouses by reason of the late delivery of shipping documents, the following arrangements have been made, viz:

If "Shipping Documents" sent through the post are enclosed in envelopes marked "SHIPPING DOCUMENTS" by means of a rubber stamp and not by handwriting, the Postal Censor's Department will endeavour to deal with such envelopes with special expedition.

The only Documents which may be included in an envelope marked as above, are the following: Bills of lading (with or without drafts), invoices, specifications, manifests, parcels receipts, certificates of origin, destination, inspection, weight or analysis, insurance policies or certificates, schedules of instructions, subject to the information contained in such schedules being limited to an identification of the other documents enclosed in the envelope, and to the instructions being limited to ordinary instructions as to the delivery of such other documents as against acceptances or cash.

The enclosure of any letters or documents other than those above specified in an envelope marked as above is forbidden, and it is essential that this direction should be strictly obeyed.

August 14, 1916.

G.N. No 38

Repealed by G.N. 179 of 1916

IN exercise of the powers vested in him by Her late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October 1896, and otherwise, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following rules with regard to the exercise of censorship.

Government Notices No. 124 of the 3rd August, No. 173 of the 2nd September, 19. 4 and No. 87 of the 10th April 1915 are repealed.

1. *Enforcement of censorship.*

Until further notice all letters, packets and telegraphic messages received in or despatched from, or in transit through, these Islands, will be subject to censorship.

The Censorship staff will be sworn to secrecy.

2. *No military matter to be discussed in communications.*

In view of the danger that unauthorized persons, and persons actuated by motives hostile to British interests, may obtain access to information contained in private communications from persons in Malta and may utilize such information to the detriment of British interests, all persons are strictly enjoined to refrain from mentioning in any of their correspondence or messages any information regarding the National defences more especially anything relating to the plans of the Naval and Military Commanders and the strength, composition, movements, organization and spirit of His Majesty's naval and military forces.

3. *Publications in Malta.*

No newspaper, book, pamphlet or other publication is to be published in Malta and its dependencies without previous permission being obtained from the press censor. Information regarding the rules to be observed in this connection is obtainable on application to the press censor.

The publications referred to in the next preced-

ing paragraph include picture postcards and any other pictorial representation of local subjects. The sale, exhibition for sale, or detention for sale, of any such postcards or other representations, without the previous permission of the Press-Censor, shall be treated as a breach of the Censorship Rules recited above.

A duplicate specimen of any set of postcards approved by the Censor shall be stamped with the Censor's mark. One copy of the specimen shall be returned to the owner and shall be evidence of the Censor's approval of the relative set of postcards. The other copy shall be kept by the Censor.

4. *Publications outside Malta.*

Communications intended for publication in the press elsewhere than in Malta are to be submitted to the press censor at the Castille, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., instead of being handed in direct to the post or telegraph Administration. If approved by the censor, they will be transmitted by him to the postal or telegraphic authorities for despatch. Those intended for transmission by post must be stamped before submission, and those by telegraph will, if approved, be passed by the press censor to the telegraphic authorities.

5. *Postal communications.*

Letters, packets and parcels posted for despatch from, or received for delivery in, Malta, are only accepted by the postal authorities on the condition that they are liable to destruction or detention, or delay in transmission at the discretion of the censor and without notice to the sender or to the addressee and without any claim lying against the postal or censorship authorities either for refund of the postage paid on them, or on any other grounds on account of such destruction, detention or delay.

6. *Telegraphic communications (cable and radio-telegraphic).*

Messages written in code, cipher or in any language other than English and French will not be accepted for despatch.

Messages for despatch from, and delivery in, Malta, are only accepted on condition that they are liable, without notification to the sender or addressee, to be delayed in transmission, paraphrased or suppressed altogether, at the discretion of the censor, and that no refund of money paid for the message will be made on account of such delay, paraphrasing or suppression.

Once a message has been handed in for transmission no alterations will be allowed to be made in it by anyone except the censorship staff.

March 28, 1916.

[No.

IT is notified that, in exercise of the powers vested in the Governor by Ordinance No. XX of 1914 (The Malta Defence Ordinance, 1914), His Excellency has been pleased to direct that telephone messages tendered for transmission from Malta to Gozo, or *vice versa*, shall be subject to censorship, and that no message shall be accepted for transmission unless it has been drawn up in the English language.

March 30, 1916.

By Command,

LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

The Palace, Valletta, E. BONAVIA,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor
and Chief Secretary to Government.

THE MALTA DEFENCE REGULATIONS, 1916.

Omissis

Power of Senior Censor to require the furnishing of certain particulars with regard to certain letters etc.

30. The Senior Censor may require any person who receives letters, telegrams or other postal packets for delivery or forwarding to other persons for whom they are intended to furnish in writing the following particulars:—

(a) the name and address of every person for whom any letter, telegram or postal packet is received, or who has requested that letters, telegrams or other postal packets received may be delivered or forwarded to him;

(b) any instructions that may have been received as to the delivery or forwarding of letters, telegrams or other postal packets;

(c) in the case of every letter or other postal packet received, the place from which the letter or postal packet comes and the date of posting (as shown by the post-mark) and the date of receipt, and, if registered, the date and office of registration and the number of the registered packet;

(d) in the case of every letter or other postal packet delivered, the date of the delivery and the name and address of the person to whom it is delivered;

(e) in the case of every letter or other postal packet forwarded, the name and address to which, and the date on which it is forwarded;

and no such person shall deliver a letter, telegram or other postal packet to any person until that person has signed a receipt for the same.

The Senior Censor may also require any such person as aforesaid to keep a register and enter in it the above particulars. The books so kept and all postal packets received as aforesaid by any such person, and any instructions as to the delivery or forwarding of postal packets so received shall, at all reasonable times, be open to inspection by the Senior Censor or any person duly authorized by him to that effect.

If any person contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this regulation or any order given under the same, he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

Nothing in this regulation shall apply to postal packets addressed to any office where any newspaper or periodical is published, being postal packets in reply to advertisements appearing in such newspaper or periodical.

Censorship.

31. Until further notice, all letters, packets, newspapers, postcards and telegraphic messages received in or despatched from, or in transit through or within these Islands, shall be subject to censorship.

The Censorship staff will be sworn to secrecy.

In view of the danger that unauthorized persons, and persons actuated by motives hostile to British interests, may obtain access to information contained in private communications from persons in these Islands and may utilize such information to the detriment of British interests, all persons are strictly enjoined to refrain from mentioning in any of their correspondence or messages any information regarding the national defences more especially anything relating to the plans of the Naval and Military Commanders and the strength, composition, movements, organization and spirit of His Majesty's naval or military forces or any military or naval action, incident or casualty unless such have been published.

No newspaper, book, pamphlet or other publication is to be published in these Islands without previous permission being obtained from the press censor. Information regarding the rules to be observed in this connection can be obtained on application to the press censor.

The publications referred to in the next preceding paragraph include picture postcards and also any other pictorial representation of local subjects. The sale, exhibition for sale, or detention for sale, of any such postcards or other representations, without the previous permission of the press censor, shall be treated as an offence against these regulations.

A duplicate specimen of any set of postcards approved by the Censor shall be stamped with the Censor's mark. One copy of the specimen shall be returned to the owner and shall be evidence of the Censor's approval of the relative set of postcards. The other copy shall be kept by the Censor.

Communications intended for publication in the press elsewhere than in these Islands are to be submitted to the press censor at the Castile, instead of being handed in direct to the post or telegraph Administration. If approved by the Censor, they will be transmitted by him to the postal or telegraphic authorities for despatch. Those intended for transmission by post must be stamped before submission, and those by telegraph will, if approved, be passed by the press censor to the telegraphic authorities.

Letters, packets and parcels posted for despatch from, or received for delivery in these Islands are only accepted by the postal authorities on the condition that they are liable to destruction or detention, or delay in transmission at the discretion of the Censor and without notice to the sender or to the addressee and without any claim lying against the postal or censorship authorities either for refund of the postage paid on them, or on any other grounds on account of such destruction, detention or delay.

Messages written in code, cipher or in any language other than English, French and Italian for Italian territory will not be accepted for despatch.

messages for despatch from, or delivery in, these Islands, are only accepted on condition that they are liable, without notification to the sender or addressee, to be delayed in transmission, paraphrased or suppressed altogether, at the discretion of the Censor, and that no refund of money paid for the message will be made on account of such delay, paraphrasing or suppression.

Once a message has been handed in for transmission, no alterations will be allowed to be made in it by anyone except the censorship staff.

Telephone messages tendered for transmission from Malta to Gozo or vice-versa shall be subject to censorship, and no message shall be accepted for transmission unless it has been drawn up in the English language.

Any person who contravenes, or attempts to defeat, all or any of the provisions of this regulation, and any person who advises, or helps any other person or persons, whether in or out of these Islands, to contravene or attempt to defeat all or any of the provisions of this regulation, shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

Any person who, without lawful authority, uses any stamp of similar pattern to that used by the Censor or by his assistants, or by his staff, and any person who uses a stamp in colourable imitation of, or purporting to be, that used by the Censor, or by his assistants or by his staff, and any person who, without lawful authority, obtains or attempts to obtain such stamp shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

Prohibition against non-postal communications to or from these Islands.

32. No person shall, without lawful authority, transmit (otherwise than through the post) or convey, to or from these Islands, or receive or have in his possession for such transmission or conveyance, any letter or printed matter or written message for any other person, and if any person contravenes this provision, he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

This regulation shall not apply to "shipowners' letters," that is to say, letters of the owners, charterers or consignees of vessels inward bound, and of the owners, consignees or shippers of goods on board those vessels, nor to any other class of letters or written messages that may be for the time being exempted by order of the Governor, but all such letters must be delivered to any officer appointed to act as a Military Censor of postal correspondence when such officer or the competent naval or military authority requires this to be done, and if any person, when so directed, fails to do so, or any person who prevents or attempts to prevent this being done, he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

Prevention of conveyance of letters etc. out of or into these Islands.

33. Any person landing or embarking in these Islands or being on board any ship in the water of these islands, or any person who by reason of his occupation or habits has special opportunities of communicating with the crews and passengers of vessels, shall, on being required to do so by any naval or military officer or any soldier or

sailor appointed for the purpose or any police or customs officer, make a declaration as to whether or not he is carrying or conveying any letters or other written messages intended to be transmitted by post or otherwise delivered to any other person, and, if so required, shall produce to such officer, soldier or sailor any such letters or messages, and any such officer, soldier or sailor may search any such person and any luggage with a view to ascertaining whether such person, or the person to whom the luggage belongs, is carrying or conveying any such letters or messages.

Any person who knowingly makes any false declaration under this regulation, or, on being required to produce any such letter or messages as aforesaid and in the manner aforesaid, refuses or neglects to do so, or in any other way contravenes this regulation, shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

The said officer, soldier or sailor will transmit any written or printed matter or messages produced to him, or found on search, to an officer appointed to act as Military Censor of postal correspondence.

1919

G.N. No 91

IN exercise of the powers vested in the Governor by Her Late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October, 1896, as amended by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st March, 1916, His Excellency has been pleased to direct that Regulation No. 31a of the Malta Defence Regulations, 1916, be cancelled.

February 20, 1919.

By Command,

LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

The Palace, Valletta, W. C. F. ROBERTSON,
Lieutenant-Governor
and Chief Secretary to Government.

G.N. No 234

IN exercise of the powers conferred in the Governor by Her Late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October 1896, as amended by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st March 1916, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to direct that, with a view to ensure the public safety and the defence of these Islands, all printed matter must be submitted to the Press Censor before publication.

June 9, 1919.

G.N. No 236

IT is hereby notified for general information that Regulation No. 31 of "The Malta Defence Regulations 1916" relating to censorship, is still in operation and that the censorship of press articles and other printed or written matter dealing with politics which was withdrawn on the 3rd February, 1919, has been re-established.

Persons concerned are warned that any publication in contravention of Regulation No. 31 of The Malta Defence Regulations, 1916, shall be dealt with as an offence against those Regulations.

June 9, 1919.

IN exercise of the powers conferred on the Governor by Her Late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October 1896 as amended by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st March 1916, His Excellency has been pleased to make the following amendments to "The Malta Defence Regulations, 1916" to have effect as from midnight on the 15th September 1919, viz:—

1. Regulation 30 is cancelled.

2. Regulation 31 is cancelled and the following Regulation is substituted therefor, viz:—

"Until further notice no newspaper, book, pamphlet or other publication is to be published in these Islands without previous permission being obtained from the Press Censor. Communications intended for publication in the Press elsewhere than in these Islands are to be submitted to the Press Censor instead of being handed in direct to the Post Office or Telegraph administration. If approved by the Press Censor, they will be transmitted by him to the Postal or Telegraphic Authorities for despatch. Those intended for transmission by post must be stamped before submission, and those by telegraph will, if approved, be passed by the Press Censor to the Telegraphic Authorities.

"Once a message has been handed in for transmission, no alterations will be allowed to be made in it by anyone except the Censorship Staff.

"Any person who contravenes, or attempts to defeat, all or any of the provisions of this regulation, and any person who advises, or helps any other person or persons, whether in or out of these Islands, to contravene or attempt to defeat all or any of the provisions of this regulation, shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

"Any person who, without lawful authority, uses any stamp of similar pattern to that used by the Censor or by his assistants, or by his staff, and any person who uses a stamp in colourable imitation of, or purporting to be, that used by the Censor, or by his assistants or by his staff, and any person who, without lawful authority, obtains or attempts to obtain such stamp shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations."

September 11, 1919.

G.N. No 370

WITH reference to Government Notice No. 369 of the 11th September 1919, it is notified that the Office of the Press Censor has been transferred to No. 28 Strada Eritannica, Valletta (2nd floor).

Information regarding the rules to be observed in connection with the Press Censorship can be obtained on application to the Press Censor at the above address.

September 11, 1919.

1921

G.N. No 315

WHEREAS by virtue of His Majesty's Orders in Council of the 26th day of October 1896, the 28th day of August 1914 and 21st day of March 1916 or by some one or more of them, certain Regulations for securing the public safety and the Defence of Malta and the Dependencies were duly made and are now in force;

And whereas it is no longer necessary that all the said Regulations should be in force;

Notice is hereby given that the said Regulations and except those the numbers and marginal titles whereof are set out in the Schedule hereto are hereby repealed and cease to be in force on the date of this notice.

And notice is further given that one of the Regulations which continue in force has been and is amended as shown in the second column of the Schedule hereto and shall from the date of this notice be read and have effect as so amended.

SCHEDULE.

No. of Regulation.	Marginal Title and Amendments.
1.	Directions as to non-interference with persons and property.
3a.	Powers as to economising and maintaining supply of food.
3b.	Powers to require information in respect to any article of commerce.
3c.	Power to hold enquiries as to articles.
3d.	Spread of false reports as to food supplies.
20.	Landing or embarking at ports of these Islands without passport prohibited.
20a.	Measures to prevent the landing or embarking of stowaways.
20b.	Seamen's Certificate of Nationality.
25.	Prohibition against tampering with telegraphic apparatus, etc.
28.	Prohibition against possession of wireless telegraphic apparatus, etc.
41-46 inclusive.	Prohibition against manufacturing, etc., firearms, explosives, etc., without permission.—Suspicious possession of explosives, etc. Duty to register sales, etc., of explosives, etc.—Prohibition against selling etc., explosives, etc., to unauthorized persons.—Prohibition against the possession of firearms, explosives, etc.—Prohibition of importation of arms, etc.
58 A (c).	Prohibition against supplying intoxicants to members of His Majesty's or allied forces, with an amendment omitting the words "or Allied" and the words "either with or without any such intent as aforesaid"
60.	Prohibition against unauthorised use of naval, military or police uniforms, decorations, medals and badges.
62.	Damage to Government property and incitement to sedition, disaffection or treason.
63.	Obstruction of officers, etc. in performance of duties.
68-73 inclusive.	False passports, etc.—Duty to deliver passports found to the Police, etc.—Assisting prisoners of war or interned persons to escape.—Duty of compliance with orders.—Aiding and abetting, etc.—Duty of disclosing contraventions of regulations.
78-85 inclusive.	Powers of arrest and to take photographs and finger prints.—Trial of offences.—Saving of other powers.—Notices of orders.—Provisions as to permits.—Appointment of the competent naval or military authority.—Short title.—Transitory provisions.

October 25, 1921.