

CENSORSHIP

and Bermuda's Role in Winning World War II

'The most important of all British stations'



HORST AUGUSTINOVIC



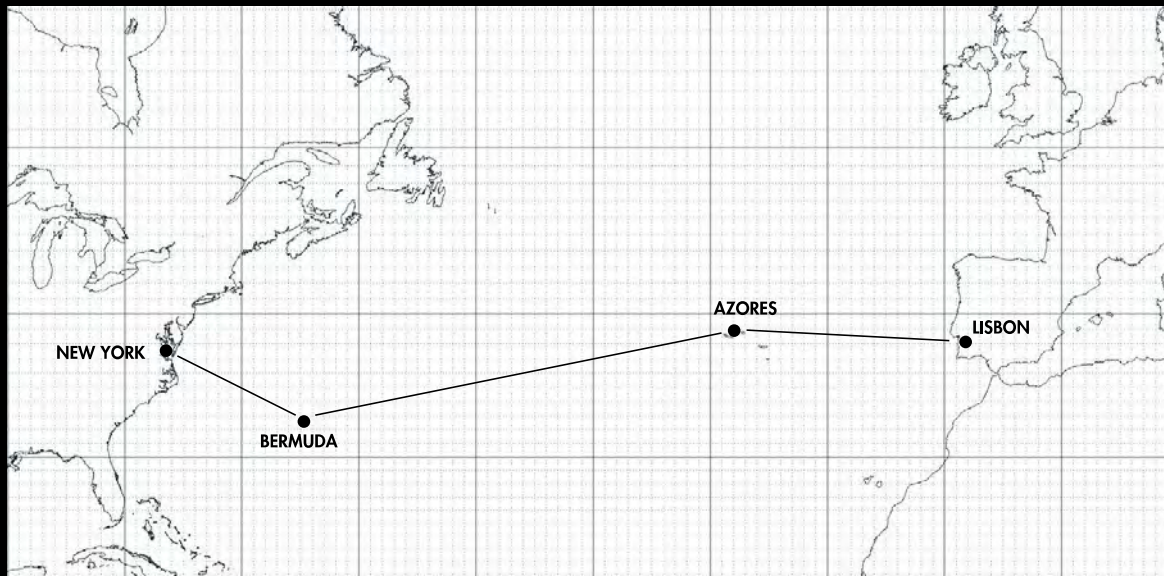
Messrs R. D. Fountain,

Box 122,

Hamilton,

Bermuda.

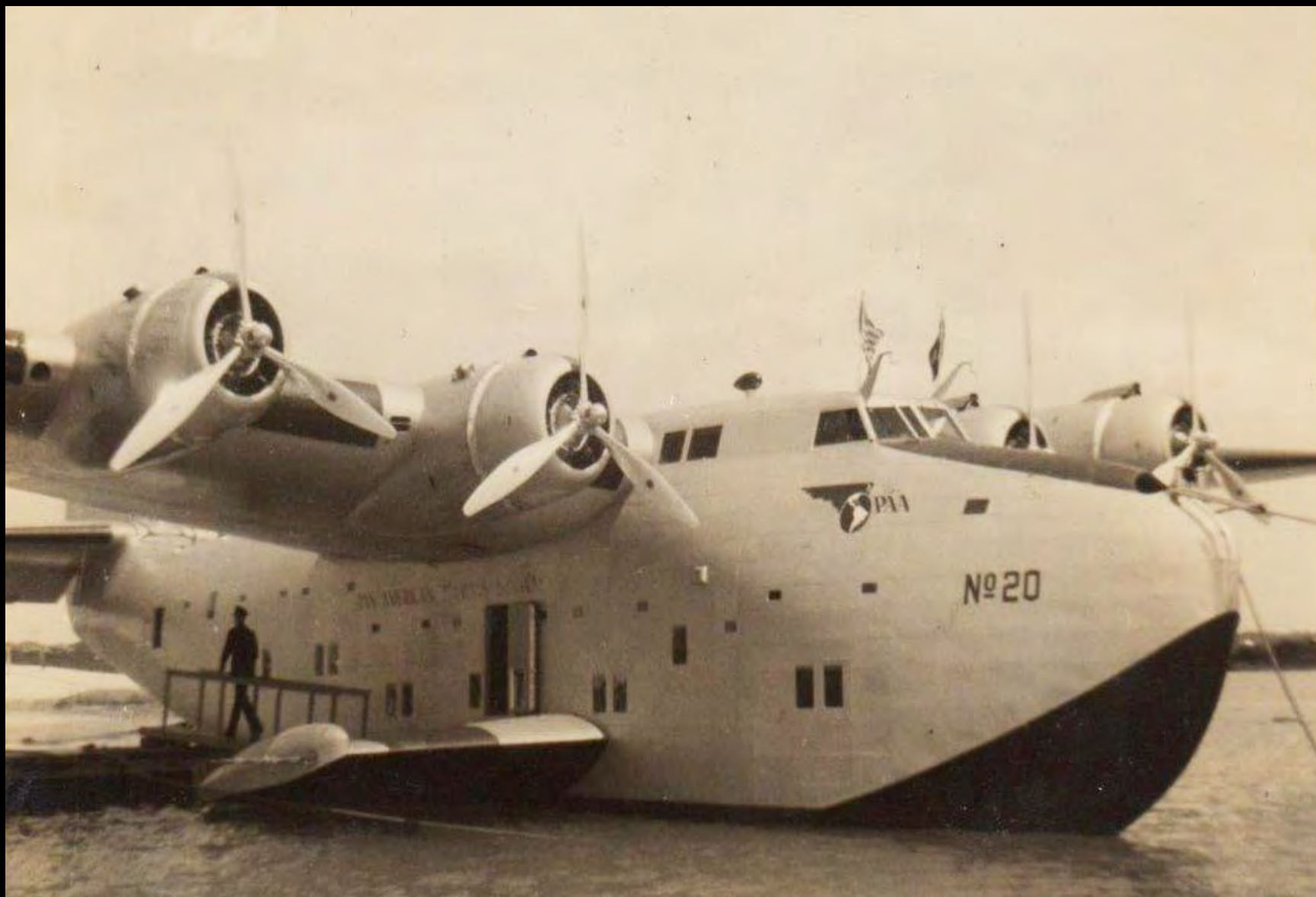




The Trans-Atlantic Air Route and Darrell's Island in the Great Sound



A PAA Clipper at Bermuda's first airport



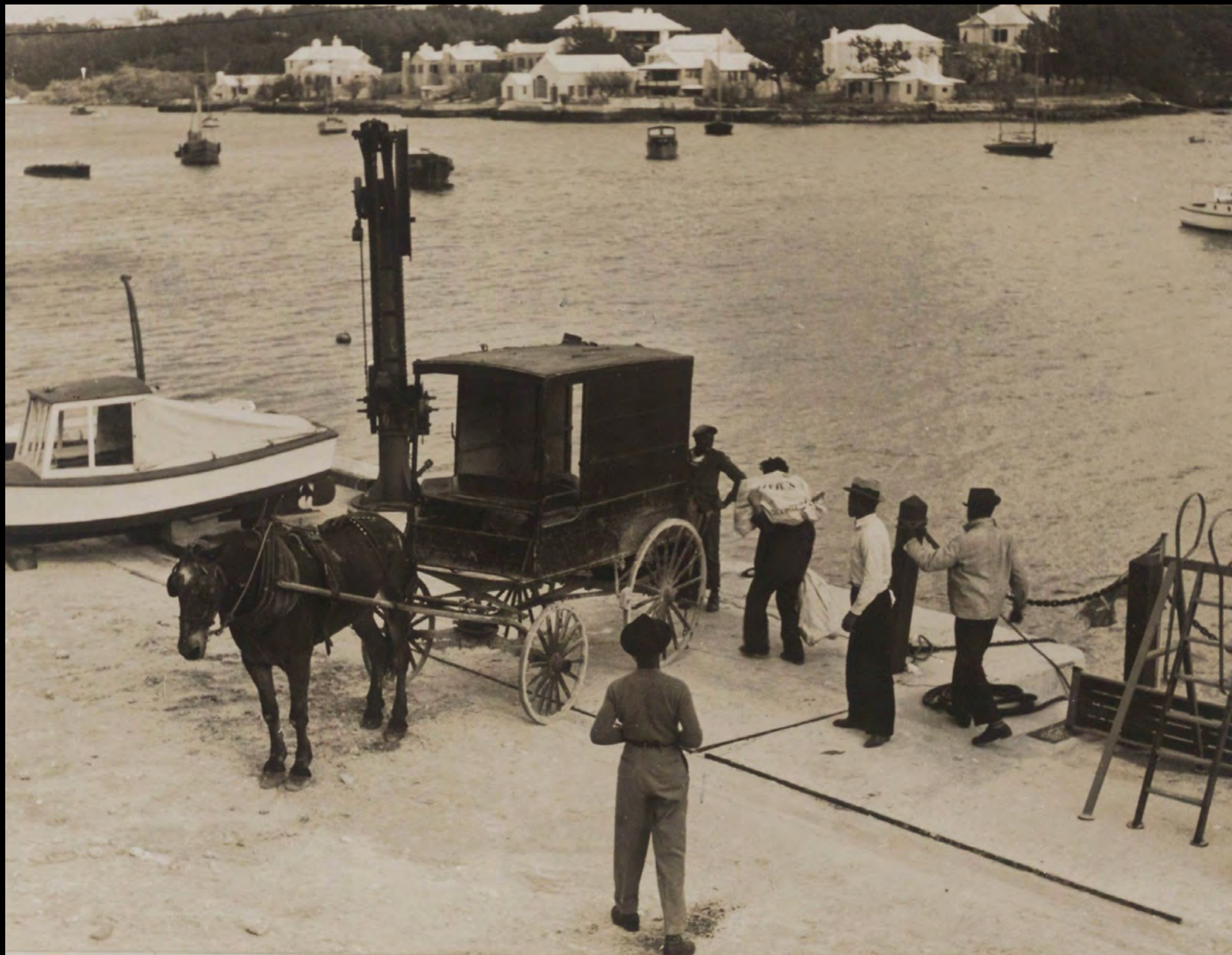
Clipper 20 was later renamed 'Atlantic Clipper'



Mailbags are being lowered from the hold



And transferred to a barge to be taken to Hamilton



Unloading the mailbags in Hamilton



And delivery at Montpelier in Devonshire



Unloading mailbags from the S.S. President Roosevelt in Hamilton



Sorting terminal mail for censorship



Sorting transit mail



Army wives censoring transit mail at Montpelier



Censoring transit mail at Montpelier

REGIA LEGAZIONE D'ITALIA
MESSIOO

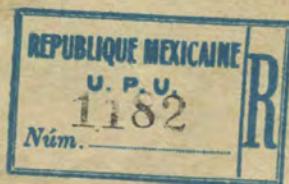
TRANSATLANTIC CLIPPER
Certificada



REGIO MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

VIA AEREA
TRASATLANTICA A EUROPA

ROMA (Italia)



MEMORATIVO 1939 1939 CONMEMORATIVO 1939
rio de la Imprensa en México, primera en América

ER VIA AEREA



Mexico to Italy – an example of the first transit mail to be censored January 18, 1940

VIA AIR MAIL



Miss Millie Adoli
% American Express Co
Milano
1028 Italy



522856



Wagner Room 305
120 Liberty St
Nyc usa

New York to Milan, also from the first transit mail to be censored in Bermuda

OPENED BY

PO 102.

Luftpost nach Nordamer
ab New York.

Einschreiben.



Wolff
157 1725

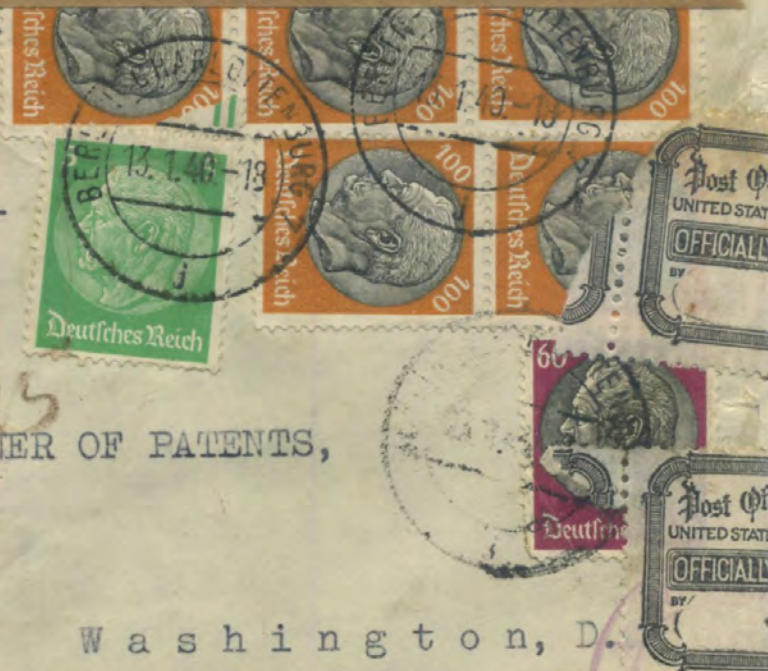
The COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS,



-A.G.D.S. Loewe,
~~by~~ **HANNES-HEINZ WOLFF**
BERLIN-STEGLITZ
Wiesenweg 10
Germany.

Washington, D.

U.S.A.



Germany to USA - an example of the first west-bound mail to be censored

Via P.A.A.
By first
AIR MAIL
LISBOA to NEW YORK
without landing
in Bermudas Islands



Mr. Henry M. Hedrick,
4219, Sec. Blvd.,
Detroit, Mich.
U.S.A.



Germany tries to avoid Bermuda censorship



The Princess Hotel during World War II



35 censors at work in the Adam Lounge



A more specialized section



3 censors at work in the Scientific & Testing section



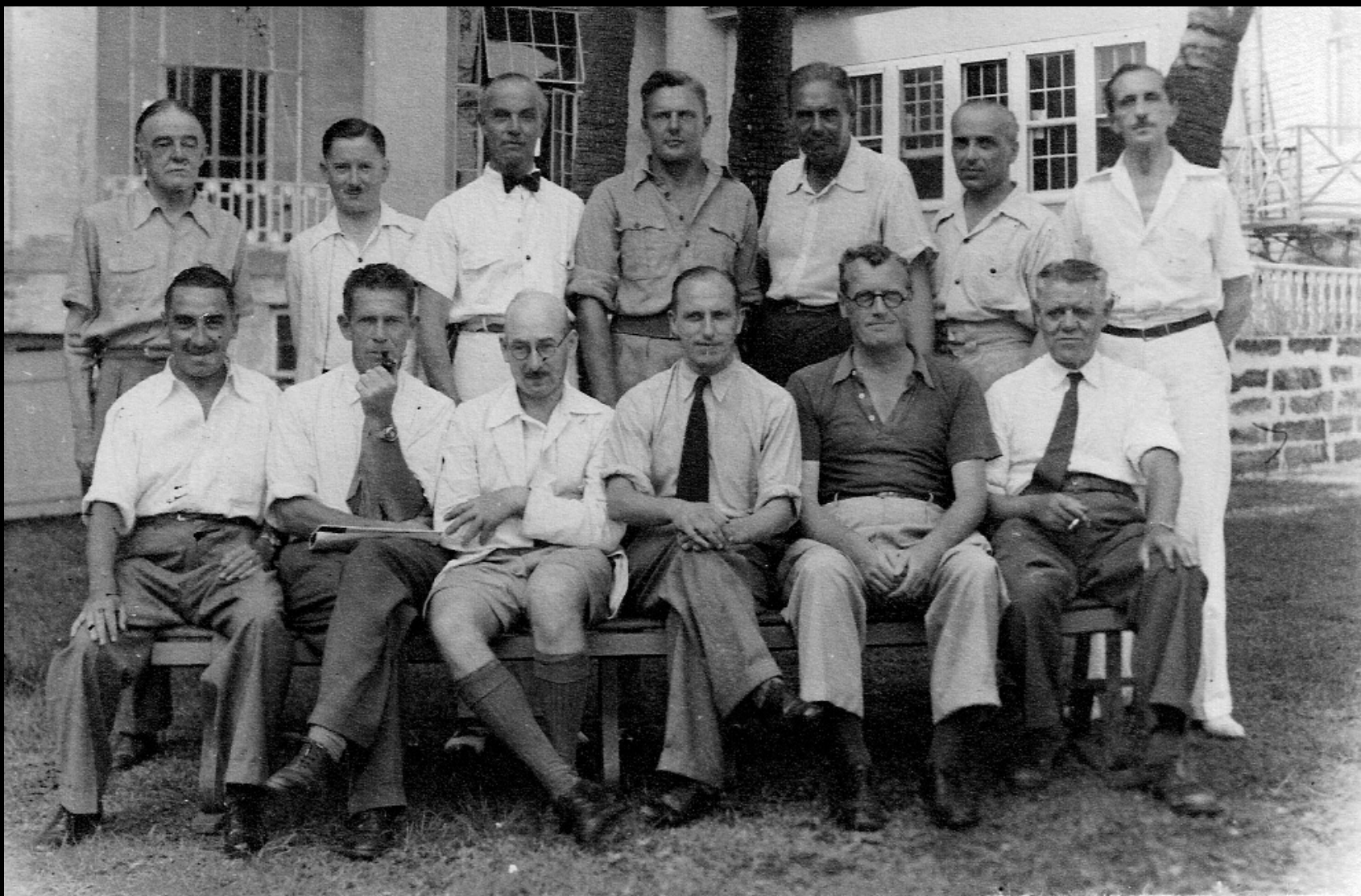
Announcing the end of a working day



Time to go and forget other peoples' mail



Relaxing at the Princess Hotel swimming pool and on the beach



Trade Table 9 in July 1942. William Gilmore is second, standing, from the right

James T. par B 24 attached, valid 2/11/43
to class "H" ship, No A163
attached issued 28/8/42

Valid until 31/12/43.
Anyone finding this Card should
return it to nearest Police Station
or to any Police Constable.



BERMUDA



IDENTITY CARD

Defence (Security) Regulations

Keep this card in a safe and convenient place so that it can easily be produced if required.

Guarda este cartão em lugar seguro e a mão de forma que possa apresentá-lo facilmente quando for requerido.

Surname	GILMORE	
	(Block Capitals)	
Christian Names	William Smith	
Address	"Edgewater"	
	Pitt's Bay Road, Pembroke West	
Nationality	American	
If Naturalised, date and place of Naturalisation		
Where born	Ohio, U.S.A.	Date of Birth
	12-5-91.	12-5-91.
DESCRIPTION		
Age	White	
Height	ft. 5	in. 7
Eyes, colour	Brown	
Hair, colour	Grey	
Complexion	Dark	
Distinguishing marks	None	
Print of right thumb of person unable to write signature.		
Signature (or 'Mark')	W. B. Gilmore	



William Gilmore's Bermuda Identity Card

No. B

27

Class B"

PERMIT TO ENTER DARRELL'S ISLAND

(In accordance with the provisions of the Bermuda Defence Regulations 1939)

(For endorsements and conditions see back)

NAME:

William S. GILMORE

ADDRESS:

Edgewood, Pitts Bay Road.

Has permission to enter DARRELL'S ISLAND

between the hours of

All hours and

for the purpose of

Censorship Duties

Defence Security Officer

Lt.-Col.

Date

21/8/42

(For endorsement

(Conditions see back).

1. This pass is not valid for Ships or Protected places.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

2. This Pass is not transferable to another person and is available only for the protected places as stated on reverse.
3. The loss or finding of this pass should be reported at once to the issuing office or Police. Should the pass be lost through neglect or carelessness and a new one required a fine of ten shillings will be imposed.
4. This pass must be presented on the demand of a person on duty who is a member of His Majesty's Forces, an employee of the War Department, or a Policeman.
5. The HOLDER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE for returning this pass to the Defence Security Officer when no longer required.
6. The holder will NOT contact any passenger without the permission of the Defence Security Officer of the Department.
6. Valid until

THIS PASS IS HEREBY
REVALIDATED UNTIL

31/12/43

No. A

163

Class "A"

PASS TO BOARD SHIPS IN BERMUDA WATERS

(In accordance with the provisions of the Bermuda Defence Regulations 1939.)

NAME

W. K. MORE, William Smith

ADDRESS

c/o Imperial Consularship, Bermuda.

has permission to board ship(s)

for Travellers Consularship

Between the hours of

Consularship

Finger Prints of Right Hand, Thumb and First Finger.

and

for

Consularship duties.

Signature

W. K. MORE

Date

28/8/42

B. R. Deane Smith

Col.

pp. Defence Security Officer.

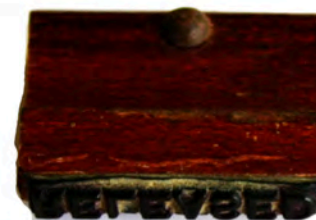


GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The validity of this permit expires on 31st December 1943.
2. The loss of this Permit must be reported at once to the Police and to the Defence Security Officer. Ten shillings will be charged for a replacement.
3. This Permit must be presented on demand to any member of H. M. Forces or of the Police Force on duty, and to any Customs or Immigration Officer.
4. This Permit must not be transferred or lent to any other person.
5. This Permit must not be altered or defaced.
6. If the person to whom this Permit was granted no longer requires it he must return it at once to the Defence Security Officer.
7. The holder of this permit must not:—
 - (a) take any camera, binoculars or telescope on board any ship.
 - (b) except with the express permission of the D.S.O. communicate with any passenger or board any ship.
8. The holder of this Permit must NOT take on board or off any ship any letters, documents, papers or parcels of any description without the permission of the D.S.O. and of the Customs Authorities.
9. Any breach of the said conditions is a Breach of the Boarding of Ships (Control) Order 1942 and is punishable by fine or imprisonment or both.

B. P. 2052-42

And his Pass to board ships



RELEASED



DETAINED

His Document Box, Notebook, Pens and Rubber Stamps

EXAMINER 714

1-C



From Donato Gentile

31 Benglen Rd.

Newton Mass.

U. S. A.



00723

(America)

TARKASTETTU

GRANSKAT



Mail.

ar avion
aposti - Luftpost



PAS SERVICE AEREN
ATLANTIQUE EUROPE-ETATS-UNIS

Mr. Edwin O. Townsend,

12, Sherman Avenue,

Mansfield, Ohio

U. S. of America.

EXAMINER 714

Photo. No

Records No.

IMPERIAL CENSORSHIP BERMUDA

Ex	Mail No.	Date Of Mail:	
FROM		To	
Data of letter (or postmark if letter undated)		If listed ("W.T.L.," "G" Lists etc.)	
PREVIOUS RECORDS IF RELEVANT Nos.		For office use by A.C. or D.A.C. in Bermuda	Allocation of submission slip in addition to: LONDON TRINIDAD
			Seen by Advisers: Nav: Mil: Air:
Whether to be photographed:-- If so, to whom photograph is to be sent:-- (state number of copies to each)		DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL LETTER: Released, condemned, held, pending instructions or sent with slip to:--	

Language:—

COMMENT

Room
(or Department)

TABLE

EXMR.

D.A.C.

DATE

BERMUDA TRAVELLERS CENSORSHIP

INTERROGATOR'S REPORT

Ship's Report No.152.

Name of Ship: Serpa Pinto W/B

Date of Arrival: 20th September 1942.

Interrogation conducted by: W.S.GILMORE

Reported by: P.M.Rolston.

Checked by D.A.C., T/C

Copies to: D.A.C., T/C
S.C.O.

D.S.O.
Naval Adviser

Military Adviser
Air Adviser

Name of Passenger: AMZALAC, Victor

Place of Birth: Tunis.

Date of Birth: 1903

Nationality(present): French, by naturalisation. Nationality(former): British, by birth

Future Address: c/o Renée Shelton,

Main Occupation: Lawyer.

5312 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.

Passenger was, before the war, a lawyer with his practice in Paris and Mants/s/Seine. After the Armistice he was demobilised and sent back to his residence in Mants.

Deportation of Jews: Passenger knew a man named Fillori in the Vichy Government, who told him that the Vichy Government had asked the Germans to take charge of the stateless Jews in France. The Germans wanted to deport the able-bodied Jews only but the Government insisted on their taking complete families, thus including the aged and infirm.

Workmen for Germany: French factory owners were actually issuing propaganda to their workmen urging them to go to Germany in order that the owners might save their factories. The Germans had threatened to close the factories if they had no volunteers. This was in July 1942.

PASSPORT PARTICULARS

Number: 25442

Date of Issue: 20th January 1942.

Place of Issue: Marseille.

Current Visas:

U.S. French Non-Preference Immigration visa, NO.640, issued at Lyon,
May 18, 1942.

French exit visa issued in Marseille, No.46883, 13th May 1942.

Spanish and Portuguese transit visas issued in Marseille 26th June 1942.

Portuguese Exit Visa issued 5th May 1942, Lisbon, No.5976.

Sept.



Detained because it contained unused Italian stamps

DETAIN

20
K 5=

reply coupons

145

LUFTPOST
ETADLEM
AR AVION

Brünn 9
Brno 9
89

2030
2839-



38-25

Mr. Oskar Heckler
c/o Max Winter

RELEASED BY BRITISH
CENSOR

1537 Perkiomen Ave
Reading P A
New York
U.S.A.

Kornitzer Brünn/Protektorat/
Zieglergasse 38



PC 116

clipped w 29. 10. 1945

DETAIN

Detained because it contained reply coupons

UNITED

NO OPENED

EXETER

ME. S.M.

19/20/11

Form No. 161
[PO 112]

(6043 - Stamp Sent)

CONDEMNED

condemned

Cover with 1st day of
issue U.S.A. stamps
dated 16/10/40

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
NOV 15
2-PM
1940

Henry Breitsprecher.
917 Spruce - Str
Phila. - Penn.
U.S.A.

To Mr & Mrs G. B.

Hamburg

Hoheluftchen

Germany

OPENED BY

RELEASED

P.C. 90

LUFTPOST
PAR AVION
BY AIR MAIL



HELD BY BRITISH CENSOR
RELEASED JANUARY 1946

Messrs.
Richards & Geier
274 Madison Avenue
New York

7765
3222
4027

HELD BY BRITISH CENSOR
RELEASED JANUARY 1946



Schreiben.

Wing Nordamerica

Firma
Richards & Geier,
New York-City/USA
274, Madison Avenue.

HELD BY BRITISH
CENSOR R'LD JAN 1946

LUFTPOST
PAR AVION
BY AIR MAIL

R Berlin-Charlottenburg 020 ✓ b

P.C. 90

Examples of detained German mail released in 1946

EXAMINER 6190

Luftpost.

Einschreiben

MIT LUFTPOST
PAR AVION

Dr. Arnold Herzfeld
c/o Bleichroeder, Bing & Co., Inc.,

BLEICHROEDER & Co.

HAMBURG 1

Buerwall 30.



80, Maiden Lane,
New - York.
U.S.A.



FIELD BY BRITISH
RECEIVED JAN 30 1946

EXAMINER 5421

RELEASED

te Expres

Per Eilboten
Einschreiben

Chemnitz 1

802 b

LUFTPOST
PAR AVION
AIR MAIL

Herren

Richards & Geier

274 Madison Avenue

New York

U. S. A.

FIELD BY BRITISH
RECEIVED JAN 30 1946



Examples of detained German mail released in 1946



Correspondence between stamp dealers on the Watch List released by the Prize Court in 1950



A busy day at Darrell's Island – five Boeing 314 Clippers, four Catalinas, four Coronados and a VS-44A Vought Sikorsky on land or in the water



Beschädigt bei Unfall des Clipper-
flugzeuges am 22.2.1943 bei Lissabon.

Damaged mail from the Yankee Clipper when it crashed in Lisbon on February 22, 1943

POST CARD

Dear Lee:
 Finally got your
 socks - could only
 get 2 pair of white
 believe it or not
 the island is lacking
 white socks size 10 -
 it is practically impossible
 to get anything every
 shops' stock is so
 low - Hope they will
 be O.K. I got the
 rest in pale colors -
 Lots of love
 M. Willis



Mrs. Edward Wardwell
 Cedarhurst
 Long Island
 N.Y.
 U.S.A.

VIA
 AIRMAIL



Postage Due 34 Cents
 Foreign Sect. G.P.O.N.Y.



Mr. Ted Valouch
 26 South Ecker Street
 Irvington New York
 S.F.

A postcard mailed five days before the war started and a letter charged postage due



Two letters censored by Military Censors

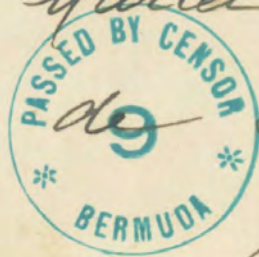


Letters that had to be opened for censorship, were now sealed with tapes and identified by individual censors

CENSOR.



Monsieur Marcel Gaudin
P 3 rue
France
Bagnolet
Rue de Behoult
P. Orgerus



CENSOR.

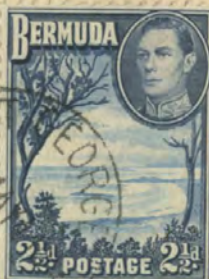
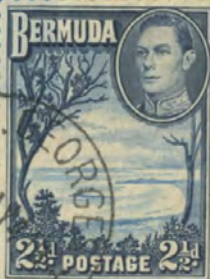
80

Mr Donald Thurbidge
195 Main St.
Andover,
Mass.
U. S. A.



EXAMINER

211



Mrs. M.
Cambridge

EXAMINER 742



Miss Mabel F. Jones
983 Memorial Drive
601
Cambridge
Massachusetts



EXAMINER 913



NOTED. J. W. L. Arnell

3437 Peel St.

Montreal

P.Q.

CA

EXAMINER 913

Perceval N. Anstey, Esq.
60 Beaver Street,
New York City.

USA.



EXAMINER 1947

K. C. Arnell, Esq.
San Isidro
Bermuda



AIR MAIL

Leut. J. A. C. Arnell,
490 Gilmour St.
Apartment A.
Ottawa

Canada

EXAMINER 6140

MAIL

O. H. DARTRE
of Fleet Mail Office.
Navy House.
Ismaïlia.
Egypt.



O.A.T.
AIR MAIL

When Bermuda was allocated the code letter 'C', Imperial Censors added 'C' in manuscript

C/8170



C/8120



Labels with the country code were soon printed for all terminal censors

AIRMAIL.

PERMIT FILED



Wingfields,
C/o British Philatelic Assn,
3, Berners St,
London, W. 1. ENGLAND.



(7) EXPORT PERMIT NO. 160072

A permit was required if you wanted to send Bermuda stamps overseas

Yesterday we made our daily(?) pilgrimages
to The Bridge Club. We both played at
different tables & both came home laden
with spoils - Dad with 9/- & I with 8/-
It fattened my Bridge purse no end -
We have had a cold spell with the
temperature down to 48° on several
nights, which is about the coldest I ever
gets as you know. Jack dear, The

[REDACTED]

to breakfast I found, to my delight, that
it was 62° on the verandah. The
house still not quite 60° - so I've
thrown everything open in the hopes
of heating the house - I think it
will be much warmer by noon - as
already the temperature has gone up
a degree -

Jack dear, I saved you this clipping
of a most interesting sermon. Given
at The Cathedral - You were always
fuzzled over "Burden of Thimble" is ^{intolerable} ~~intolerable~~



Examples of Bermuda mail returned to sender by the censor

PO112.

CONDEMNED

Miss Hazle Young
Box 85
Ellijay, Georgia
U.S.A.



CONDEMNED



Mr. Donald G. Outerbridge,
20 Bartlett Hall,
And over,
Massachusetts.

The only known examples of condemned terminal mail



Mrs. G. H. Parker

*Huntley Towers
Bermuda*



A letter to Gabriele Parker, interned at Huntley Towers, from her husband Harry, a Bermudian Immigration Officer

Air Mail



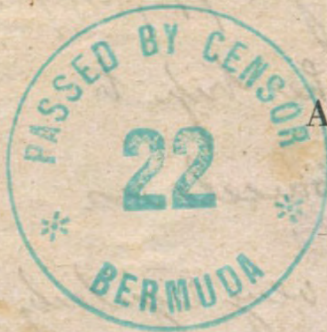
Mrs. Maria Schiele
Prisoner of War

St. Georges Barracks

St Georges Bermuda

C/8120

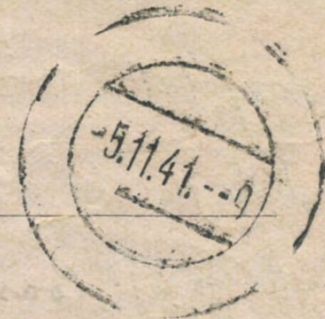
Kriegsgefangenenpost



An

Mrs. W.E. Tucker

Park House



Empfangsort:

Hamilton

Straße:

Cedar Avenue

Land:

Bermuda.

Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Gebührenfrei!



IF NOT DELIVERED IN FIVE DAYS
RETURN TO

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
AT POINT OF MAILING



The Manager
The Bank of N. L. Butterfield & Son Ltd.

**THIS LETTER WAS
RECOVERED FROM A
DAMAGED SHIP**

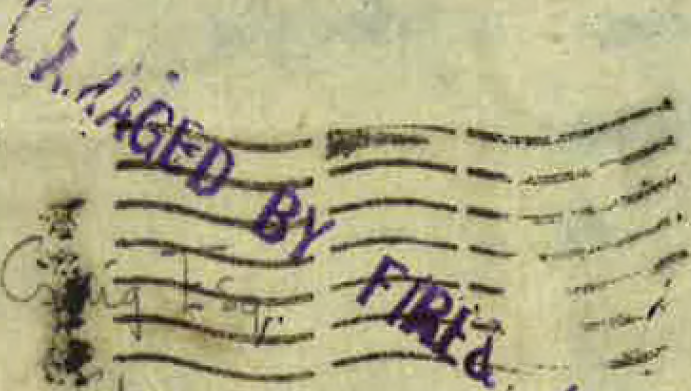
Hamilton

Bermuda

M

A letter to Bermuda recovered from the 'MV Maurienne' after being sabotaged in Halifax Harbour on 2 February 1942

Mr. Eello Whinn R.N.
C/o B.F.M.O. Bermuda.



21 Halsey Street

1-2-3 S.W. 3.



~~83. Grange Rd
Middlesbrough
yorks.~~

5015 Squadron
RAF
Bridgworth
Salop

A letter from the Fleet Mail Office 'Damaged by Fire and Water'

MRS. J. S. VALLIS
BOX 257
HAMILTON, BERMUDA

Mrs. H. . Porter,
Haywards, Heath,
Sussex, England.

Golden. Nob, Summerhill Lane.



Lost at sea. 1242. one bag of reg. mail.
Found on the coast.

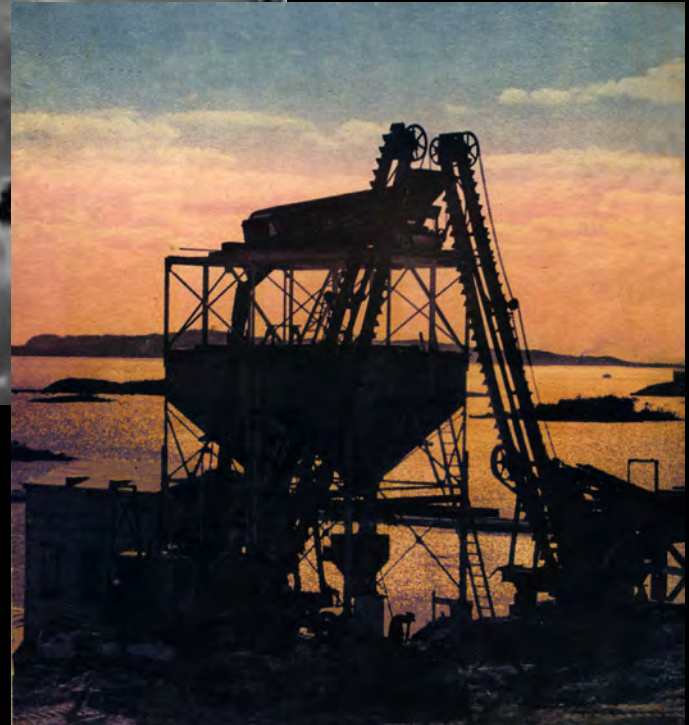
A Bermuda letter 'found on the coast'



Censorship gone wrong!



The US Navy cruiser St. Louis in Hamilton was quickly followed by the survey ship USS Bowditch



Construction of Fort Bell and Kindley Field was soon underway using massive dredging and stone crushing equipment



Castle Harbour would never be the same again



Meanwhile Tucker's and Morgan's Islands were joined and linked with Southampton Parish to form the Naval Operating Base



The Royal Navy operated from Dockyard and Trans-Atlantic convoys assembled in Bermuda



The Royal Air Force operated on Darrell's Island while two Spitfires were bought by Bermuda for the defence of Great Britain



The Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps deploys to Europe and Bermudians train to become pilots at the Bermuda Flying School



Winston C.
Baxter



Edward Joseph
Brennan



John Edward
D. C. Brewer



Howard Sinclair
Burgess



Frank Charles
Corbett



John DeSilva



Alfred David
Drewsbury Drew



Herman Francis
Grant Ede



Allison William
Bluck Fowle



Harry Reginald
Frost



William Cardy
Hollis Hallett



Elgar Frederick
Harris



Warren James
Harris



Edward Eugene
Hennessay



Frederick Gerald
Daniel Hughes



Douglas William
Howard Hutchings



Harold Edwin
Hutchings



James Hugh
Arnold Linton



Noel Lumley
Meyer



Francis Walter
Monkman



James
Outerbridge



Willard Patterson



Walter Hewson
Perinchief



Frank Scott



Stanley Arthur
Shelton



Anthony Frith
Smith



Jay Cicott
Stephenson



Alfred John
Thomas



Daisy Louise
W. Vallis



Geoffrey A.
Welch



George Wendell
West



Richard Martin
White



James Standley
Whitecross



Granville Burton
Williams



Cecil John
Greenway Wright