

CENSORSHIP by *Dr. Anthony J. ABELA MEDICI*

The start of hostilities in the second world war at the start of September 1939 brought about postal censorship. Civilian postal material was examined by postal censored at the General Post Office and cancelled with the triangular censorship marking with a crown and "PASSED BY CENSOR". Numbers from 1 to 13 were also applied on letters that were opened and resealed with a resealing label. Some of these numbers were plain or in a circle. It has been generally believed that these numbers were used by boy scouts who offered their services to the censorship office resealing the labels after the censor has gone through the letter, and placing their number on the resealing label on both the front and back.

The postcard below is very anomalous since it naturally did not require a resealing label. And yet it was cancelled with the CS-FC-5.

Does any member have any such material, in which case one can examine them and build on the joint effort of all?



Response by Dr Rodger Evans

The Abela-Medici ppc with the 'scout' censor mark is covered on p119 of the ww2 book. We say there that the reason for these is unknown. – and one is illustrated that is written in English which rather disproves my theory – although the majority of the cards I have seen where these marks appear are written in Italian, and are incoming, and coupled with the thought that many of the scouts could probably read Italian better than the British censors, they could have been used in an advisory capacity to screen the message and use the stamp to indicate it said nothing untoward.

The card illustrated written in English has a preprinted message and again would be low risk, and quite possibly is one of a batch of similar cards which could easily be given to a scout to check as a 'low risk' item.