

Paul Armstrong
Mail Censorship

Censorship started straight away because of the fact that there was little one could say. But there were things, there were people that were mentioned that could have been of some use to someone and therefore censorship had to start from the beginning. The men got used to it. I don't think I ever did, it's not a very nice thing to read things and to know that you can't do anything about it, whatever you'd like to do, because you've read it in confidence. But one thing did happen and I'll never forget. One letter came to me to be censored and I opened it and it said on "Don't write no more". And I sent for this soldier, who I knew was married, and I said "What is this about? And he said "Well, she's going about with chaps and she's doing this and she's doing that and all she writes to me for is money", and he said "I want nothing more to do with her". I said "Unfortunately you are married, you have children, you are responsible". He said "She gets the allowance and I don't want to hear from her any more", and nothing would persuade him otherwise. Apart from that if there was something which was wrong we used to score it out with a black pencil. They used to say a blue pencil, I used a black one, and said nothing about it. And that was literally all it boiled down to.