

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
BRANCH OFFICE
15 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

May 7th, 1918.
GSW/IH

From: Officer-in-Charge, Branch Naval Intelligence
Office, New York.

To: Cable Censor, New York, N. Y.

Subject: Investigation and Identification of the Senders and
Receivers of Cablegrams.

1. This office believes that it is well to make a distinction between the identification of the senders and receivers of cablegrams which is done in a few days and in the investigation of such senders and receivers of cablegrams. This office is enabled to give you a line on the loyalty of the senders and receivers of cablegrams located in the Third Naval District within a comparatively short time. However, Lieutenant Wheat tells me that he is under the impression that certain of your officers have confused these identification reports taking them to be careful investigations. Lieutenant Wheat's records show that the average time for identification is a little more than two days. Of course, we cannot make an investigation of anyone in that length of time. It usually takes from a month to four months to thoroughly investigate a person or firm suspected of espionage or of trading with the enemy. In a detailed investigation it is often necessary that our investigators should work their way into the friendship and confidence of the persons concerned. Often times it is necessary to obtain employment with the firm or to let a room or apartment next to the suspect. All of this takes time.

2. Lieutenant Wheat has suggested the following method by which this office should handle matters from your office. All requests should be divided into two classes, viz: identification and investigation. When the Censor asks for the identification of a person this office can furnish it within three or four days at the most, often times within twenty-four hours, but this is not to be taken as a thorough investigation. When the Censor asks for an investigation it seems to me that it should be asked with the understanding that it will take at least a month to make it. Therefore, to ask for an investigation

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each department will submit a list of questions which they desire us to answer when making an identification and when making an investigation. In other words this office will endeavor to include answers to those questions in identifications or investigations as the case may be, but of course, it will not limit either the identification or the investigation of them.

4. If this meets with your approval will you please so advise.

Officer-in-Charge.