

U.S. Instructions for Replying to C.I. Red Cross Messages

I have a letter from the Red Cross National H.Q. Washington, addressed to the Red Cross Chapter, Florida, and dated 13.3.1944. It asks that the enclosed messages (from Guernsey) be delivered to the persons named as addressees. There then follows detailed instructions for writing the return message. It ends with a list of subjects one cannot mention and is worth giving the list in full here, as a comparison with those instructions issued by G.B. or C.I. Red Cross in the same context.

3. Use or mention of the following is not permitted:

- Abbreviations
- Biblical quotations or references
- Business matters
- Codes in place of customary references
- Defense matters
- Descriptions of persons, including babies
- Employment in defense or government work
- Firm names
- Geographic names
- Legal documents
- Military or naval subjects
- Money or requests for money
- Nicknames
- Poetry, text in block formation
- Politics
- Radio broadcasts
- Radiograms, airmail, telegrams, cablegrams
- Shipping information
- Unusual phrases
- Weather conditions.

How did the writer find anything to say? And how could a description of a baby conceal secret information?

J.F. Gilbert

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE GUERNSEY POST OFFICE BOARD

Glenn H Morgan

In accordance with Resolution XVIII.6 of Billet d'Etat No. XII of 1980 the Guernsey Post Office began issuing an Annual Report in 1981. Unlike its neighbour Jersey, it does not go into great depth on its postal service activities but is, nonetheless, essential reading for all avid modern Guernsey collectors.

The Reports are contained in thick volumes of Billet d'Etat and you therefore also receive Reports from some of the other States Departments, many of which are of immense non-philatelic interest. By way of an example we learn that Alderney is policed by one solitary policeman called PC84 Richardson!

Copies are obtainable from the States Greffe, Royal Court, Guernsey Channel Islands, at the priced indicated. Postage is not inconsiderable due to the heavy weight of the Reports, the majority of which, I stress, does not relate to the Post Office.

1. 1980 Report Billet d'Etat VII 1981 Price 50p 4 pages on Post Office activities. Outlined are the objectives of the Guernsey Post Office which are: To run an efficient service at minimum cost to the consumer on a break-even basis and to provide a first-class service to philatelists worldwide and to make optimum profits from philately for the island on a long-term basis. During the year a new corporate image was launched at the London 1980 stamp exhibition changing from British Post Office red to royal blue.

2. 1981 Report Billet d'Etat IX 1982. Price 50p 6 pages. New stamp vending machines were installed to replace the old ones that had caused many complaints to be made by members of the public. Profits on the Royal Wedding issues amounted to £490,000 and on the £5 Definitive stamp profits of £648,000.

3. 1982 Report Billet d'Etat X 1983. Price 50p. 3 pages. An active marketing policy was adopted in an attempt to combat the decline in sales caused by the worldwide economic recession.

4. 1983 Report Billet d'Etat XI 1984. Price 50p. 4 pages. Only 20,000 of the 40,000 account holders opened accounts to receive the Alderney definitive issues. 500 new accounts were opened as a result of an agreement with the Tourist Board whereby a Post Office sales leaflet is included with the 200,000 travel brochures posted annually around the world.

Included in the 1983 Report of the States Ancient Monument Committee is a list of acquisitions amongst which are the following items:

- 1983/760 Armband 'Post Office Postman'
- 1983/761 Metal Plate 'Jersey' used on postal mail bags
- 1983/777 Leaflet 'Make the most of Guernsey Post' 1983
- 1983/793 - 808 Obsolete Post Office equipment from Truchot Sorting Office: five sets of Post Office scales, two whicker and two metal trolleys, table and two sorting frames, dead correspondence box and stamp machine
- 1983/809 Post Office uniform clothing
- 1983/1183 - 1194 Items of Post Office uniform clothing

It is to be hoped that one day these items will be placed on public display for all collectors to appreciate.

Wartime Registration Labels (Guernsey)

In order to eke out the registration labels in stock at the Head Office in St. Peter Port during the Occupation, labels available at sub-offices in the town which had been closed were called in and used as required. Such covers are an interesting addition to any collection, but are not easy to find. Those recorded are from Quay B.O. (No. 4), St. John's (No. 5), Vale Road (7) and Ville au Roi (8). Does anyone have any others? It is possible that they may be found with labels from Braye Road (9) as this office closed for at least part of this period. At the time of writing, S.G. have a number of such Head office covers with the GUERNSEY 7 registration label and anyone interested should write to our member, Peter Mollett (a director of S.G. Limited) for details and photocopies. They are, of course, philatelically inspired, but are priced quite reasonably (I bought one myself)

John Simpson