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THINK BEFORE YOU WRITE.... A WARNING FROM AUSTRALIA.

Every mail takes hundreds of thousands of letters to men serving overseas. Into these letters, with appalling frequency, goes information of the utmost value to the enemy. Those who least desire to jeopardise the safety of their loved ones are usually the unthinking cause.

Newspapers, packets, parcels, letters - - all must be carefully sorted and directed towards the units to which each addressee belongs. A tedious job that requires maximum concentration.

What human stories - - drama, comedy, tragedy - - pour out in a never ending flood through those simple missives - - "Your son is growing - " "Mother is not well - she worries about you -", "I am going to be married - " But there is more than that - more than the simple human things men and women say to each other in a letter.

There is too often a present for the enemy in the shape of strategic or other information unwittingly, yet dangerously, given away.

That is why a very strict censorship is exercised over all mail matter -the Department of Mail Censorship is a big organisation, and it continues to grow. Because more and more people write foolish things in letters, intensifying its job. Because people, by silly subterfuge, try to outwit the Censor by cloaking important information in obvious disguise. Hundreds of rubber stamps imprinting multifarious notices and statements are necessary in the Censor's daily routine. Letters are carefully read. Those which have stuck to personal matters and contain nothing of value to the other side are quickly on their way - passed by the Censor.

But see what happens to the dangerous missives sent by people who, despite repeated official warning, WILL NOT STOP TO THINK.

"I feel so lonely without you - I woke at dawn this morning. It was just too late. It is now Thursday evening".

That letter says very plainly that a transport sailed just before dawn on Thursday! The writer undoubtedly loved her man on that ship - yet in her foolishness she jeopardised his, and many other lives.

The Censor takes no chances. The offending sections are cut out completely, with consequent mutilation of the balance of the missive.

Piece together a number a hints dropped in half a dozen letters- and information of vital importance to the enemy results.

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"Four troop ships - - three escorts - - one
armed merchant cruiser camouflaged. -

30th and 36th Infantry Brigades - equipment and
V.A.D's sailed dawn Thursday.

This could happen as a result of the criminal negligence
of the writers of those letters.

It has already happened.

So think before you write, or you may cause tragedy - -
even to your next of kin!