Censor

COL. W. PRESTON CORDERMAN, Chief of Postal Censors, is responsible for the contents of every letter that comes into or goes out of the U. S. His 12,000 assistants open 50 million pieces of mail a month to see that no war secrets leak out through carelessness, that no spy uses Uncle Sam's mailbags to transmit information to the enemy. There's no language that some member of his staff can't translate, and no system of code or cipher they can't unravel. Col. Corderman himself can break down codes in almost any language. A West Point graduate, he went to the Philippines with General MacArthur to set up the first interisland signal system. While there Filipinos gave him the gas-pipe gun he's holding in our photo. He was called home 4 years ago to work on a secret communication system for the Army, and when war broke out the Army loaned him to the post office as chief code cracker. The Colonel says it's easy to tell by the tone of a letter whether it conceals some hidden meaning. Letters are examined with mirrors and magnifying glasses, and undergo scientific tests, including chemicals and ultraviolet rays that bring out invisible ink. Only things of interest to the enemy are deleted. Colonel Corderman's pastime? Crossword puzzles.

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