

# THE CUSTOMS JOURNAL

EST. 1904

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CUSTOMS & EXCISE PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION

VOL. 38. No. 940.

JANUARY, 1941.

MONTHLY

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Readers are particularly asked to note our new address. Although we have been able to maintain our usual service by recourse to our emergency duplicate records, your kind indulgence is requested for any unavoidable delay or inconvenience outside our control.

## PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION

Head Office:

THAMES CHAMBERS, 13, BEER LANE, LONDON, E.C.3.  
Telephone: ROYAL 4279.

President:

W. E. STANDRING.

Organising Secretary:

A. E. FARMER.

General Secretary:

W. H. POWELL.

Assistant Secretary:

H. L. BOALCH.

CORRESPONDENCE, LITERARY MATTER, ETC.—*Letters to the Editor, and articles and correspondence intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor, "The Customs Journal," 93, Fairfax Road, Hornsey, London, N.8. It is essential that all matter for insertion in the monthly issue should reach the Editor on or before the 25th of the month. Articles submitted need not be typewritten, but the use of one side of the paper renders a great assistance.*

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BACK NUMBERS.—*May be obtained by applying to the Association Offices, 2d. per copy (post free).*

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—*Retired Officers and outside persons wishing to become subscribers may do so on application to the Organising Secretary, 13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3. The charge is 6s. 0d. per annum, post free.*

### ON DETACHED DUTY

We had grounds enough for complaint of the treatment of the staff in our home port, but by comparison with what we now see, we were well treated.

As we approached the building we stared. Could this half-underground place be the watch house? Should we have to eat here? Yes, it was true. "Well," we thought, "with the doubling of the staff things would change." We were right, they did. Whatever convenience the staff had had, they now had half.

Cowed and submissive, the P.O.s we found shamefacedly eating in the General Office the food which they had prepared on a cooker uncleaned in living memory. The A.P.O.s did, at least, have the use of a retiring room, albeit shared with rats, mice and insects which, from time to time, emerge from our lockers.

Confidently we ask the cleaner, "What about a little brush round here?" We are told that he doesn't clean this room. No, it's not the coal cellar. It is the kitchen. Here we stow our uniform, oilskins, oars and bicycles. Presumably, so much water makes cleaning unnecessary. Thick dust hangs in all the rooms, grease obscures the windows; the odd pieces of linoleum curl and crack; an air of decay pervades all.

Why don't we approach the C.P.O.? We have, but HE doesn't share the building. Why don't we take it further? Don't make us laugh; everyone has been fully acquainted with the conditions right through to the Official Side in the head port. We still wait, but, mark you, not with much hope or patience. And hope will not die while there is yet a Sanitary Authority in the Borough.

"Vol. 4, Part 1."

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF To 16th DECEMBER, 1940.

### TRANSFERS

#### Preventive Officers:

Chadwick, S. Kirkwall, Inverness to Leith.  
Gunn, H. Leith to Methil, Dundee.

#### OFFICER LEAVING THE SERVICE

#### Retirement:

Preventive Officer—  
Dunlop, C. R. London.

### HULL PRESENTATION

Representatives of all grades of the Waterguard Staff at Hull, including one of the "exiles," gathered at Minerva Pier on Monday, December 9th to honour and make a presentation of a radio set to Mr. J. H. Myers, Watcher, on his retirement.

The subscription lists from all stations and those officers on special service and the speeches made by various members of the staff were eloquent testimony to the very deep regard—nay, affection—which the whole of his colleagues had for Joe.

Mr. T. H. Jones, Waterguard Superintendent, in making the presentation, said that Mr. Myers was one of the few people of whom it could be said, that he never had a wrong word for anyone, nor had anyone other than a good word for him.

Messrs. Cameron, Howard, Bugler, Codd, Hellen and Walton each made short speeches on similar lines and wishing, on behalf of all who have had any contact with Joe, both he and Mrs. Myers the long and happy retirement such a "white man" deserves.

This was a presentation where one felt the sincerity of all that was said.

Good luck, Joe.

### TO LONDON—1940

Blasting down these walls of fine antiquity,  
A tyrant's wanton wings of evil strive,  
To still this beating pulse of Liberty,  
Where Freedom won, gives courage still to strive.

To flee your monarch—drive your peoples out,  
Heedless of your wounds in hapless flight;  
In mad frustration; now in growing doubt,  
A foe, to vengeance pledged, pits you his might.

But yet a King is seen to walk your ways,  
His people weaving still your threads of life.  
For to this breed no thought so much dismays  
As leaving you, though staying swells their strife.

So with your people, keep, in bludgeoned grace,  
Proud city of a strangely dauntless race.

JOHN KENNEDY.

### Bournemouth

—DURLEY GRANGE,  
Private Hotel, Westcliff.

Large, sunny garden. Few mins. centre of town, 3 mins. sea. Two floors only. H/c all rooms. Excellent menu. Terms from 2½ gns. 'Phone 3903.

# CURRENT COMMENTS

## THE LATE BEER LANE

**1941**—A New Year—turn over another page—start afresh.

These are the usual sentiments at this period, but on this occasion they take on a new significance. We shall have to start afresh to build up a new and efficient Association Head Office. No. 13, Beer Lane (indeed, the lane as a whole), was completely destroyed during the great fire-blitz of Sunday, the 29th December.

A sad blow, but we can take it, for although we have lost everything in the material sense, we still have the fighting spirit to carry on. In no time the Secretaries will have things as near normal as makes no odds.

Our temporary address is:—

6, Brook Lane,  
Bexley, Kent.

With the loss of our address book and mailing lists, we have to use these columns to contact area, district and local officials, and also recent correspondents.

(a) *District Secretaries* are asked to let us have addresses to which Association literature is to be sent within their districts—giving number of copies required.

(b) *Each Area, District and Local Official* should send a postcard giving his address.

(c) *Correspondents* who have addressed letters to Beer Lane since 23rd December, and those whose letters were due for reply, should communicate with the Secretary concerned at the above address, and give details of the contents.

\* \* \* \*

### YOU CAN HELP.

For a time the work of the Secretaries will be hampered by the loss of records, minutes, etc. Many officials, present and past, have sets or even odd copies of minutes and documents which would be of real value at this stage of reconstruction of Headquarters. We feel we have only to mention this fact to ensure an avalanche of parcels at our temporary address.

\* \* \* \*

### THE CHAIRMAN.

Sir Evelyn Murray, K.C.B., retired at the end of December from the post of Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise, which he had held since 1934.

Sir Evelyn is succeeded in the post by Sir Wilfrid Eady, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., who came to this Department last year as additional Deputy Chairman, to organise the working of the Purchase Tax.

\* \* \* \*

### WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

The January meeting of the War Emergency Committee (P.S.A.) will be held on Thursday, the 9th of the month (2.30 p.m.), at Walter House, Strand. We have to thank the C. and E. Federation for helping us out on this question of the meeting place.

## STEEL HELMETS.

In the November issue we referred to the proposal to issue two grades of steel helmets, and stated, as our opinion, that the Waterguard must have Grade I. We must admit that our contention was based on a misconception of Grade II, and that now we have seen the specification of this helmet, our objections are much modified.

Both grades are of the same design and construction, but Grade II is made from mild steel, as against the manganese steel of Grade I. Neither helmet will stop a rifle bullet fired point-blank at ordinary lethal range, but both grades give protection against the semi-spent bullet and shell splinters. We are told that few, if any, Grade I helmets are now being supplied outside the Forces.

\* \* \* \*

### WAR BONUS AND A.P.O. OVERTIME.

We have received a number of letters protesting against the recent Treasury ruling that War Bonus should not be added to basic salary of Assistant Preventive Officers in determining the rate of overtime payable, and protesting even more vehemently against the suggestion that payments already made, since February, 1940, would have to be adjusted by refund.

This matter was raised by us on the Joint Committee (C. and E. Associations) on December 3rd, and, as discussions with the Official Side are still proceeding, the matter is for the present *sub judice*. Members can be assured that the matter is well in hand, and that the Staff Side as a whole is behind us in getting a square deal for our people.

\* \* \* \*

### WAR BONUS AND SMALL PORT ALLOWANCES.

The present position of the claim for the exclusion of Small Port Allowances for the purpose of calculation of War Bonus is best summed up in the following extract from the report of the December Council meeting.

"The Official Side said that after full reconsideration of the position of Small Port Allowances in relation to War Bonus, they had to conclude that these allowances were properly included in the basis of calculation of bonus. These allowances were recognised for superannuation and balance of civil pay purposes, and they had been included in the basis of calculation of the last bonus scheme. In reply to a Staff Side question, the Official Side said that they could not exclude a part of the Small Port Allowances as attributable to overtime.

"The Staff Side said this statement needed full consideration, and the item was accordingly adjourned."

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF.

We have much pleasure in passing on the following message from C. M. Woodford, Esq., O.B.E., Inspector-General of Waterguard:—

"May I ask you to convey to all my colleagues in the Waterguard throughout the country my sincere wishes for their welfare and safety in the coming year, and the hope that it will bring peace to a tortured world and the restoration of normal and happy conditions to all those whom the war has so grievously affected."

### A NEW YEAR'S HONOUR.

Just at the time of going to press, we hear with great pleasure that His Majesty had conferred on J. S. Sutton, Esq., C.B., the honour of the title of Knight of the Order of the British Empire.

We tender to Sir John the sincere congratulations of the Waterguard Service.

## Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council

The two hundred and thirty-fourth meeting of the Council was held at the Custom House, E.C.3. on Wednesday, 20th November, 1940, the Chair being taken by Sir Evelyn Murray, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

### Appointment of Officers and Re-appointment of Standing Committees.

This meeting was the first in the year 1940-41, and it was proposed by Sir Wilfrid Eady, seconded by Mr. F. G. Perkins, and agreed that at the meetings of the Council during the ensuing year the Chair should be taken by the senior member of the Board present. On the proposal of Mr. Perkins, seconded by the Chairman, it was agreed that Mr. A. J. Cowherd should be Vice-chairman.

It was intimated that the Secretaries—Mr. J. F. Bell, Official Side and Mr. G. T. Bussey, Staff Side—would continue in office, and the Council re-appointed all its Standing Committees—*Ad Hoc*, Sectional, Grade, Office and Local.

### Purchase Tax.

The Staff Side expressed the view that decisions as to values, liability, etc., communicated to traders and representatives of trades concerned should be communicated promptly to the officials of the Department both generally and locally.

The Official Side stated that important general decisions would be issued by means of a weekly O.W.O., and gave details of the proposed arrangements. They also stated that decisions of local application would continue to be communicated on normal lines as quickly as possible.

The Staff Side said that the proposed procedure appeared to meet the present position.

### Steel Helmets and Protective Clothing for Officials employed in exposed places.

The Staff Side referred to Part 9 of O.W.O. 47/1940 and stated that, while it was an advance on the original proposals which had been the subject of informal discussion, they were of opinion that the procedure outlined was too elaborate. They considered that the Official Side should be in a position to decide in what circumstances steel helmets were necessary and which types of cases should have priority of supply. They also wished to express their strong disapproval of the Grade 2 quality helmet.

The Official Side said that the question of the helmet supply, including the grade of helmet obtainable, was outside their control. As regards the latter they said there might be some misunderstanding as to the efficacy of the second quality.

They had understood that the performance specification of the mild steel helmet compared quite well

with that of the manganese steel, except on the deflection of a head-on bullet, and promised to obtain from the Ministry of Home Security authorities a statement on the comparative value of the two grades of helmet.

The Staff Side said they would be glad to have this information and the item was re-adjourned.

### Interpretation of Treasury Instructions resulting from negotiations between the Establishments Division of the Treasury and the National Staff Side.

In regard to the request made by the Staff Side at the last meeting that opportunity might be afforded to correlate the interpretation of instructions with the National Staff Side's view, the Official Side said that they could not undertake to hold up the operation of instructions pending such consultation. Communication of Treasury rulings might also give rise to expectations that they could be discussed departmentally, or that representations could be dealt with in the Department, whereas this would not be the case.

In reply to a Staff Side inquiry on the statement that any ruling or interpretation given to the Department might be expected, *prima facie*, to be a national ruling, the Official Side observed that this meant a ruling of general application. They could give no expression of opinion as to how such a ruling had been arrived at, e.g., whether there had been further consultation between the Treasury and the National Staff Side.

At the request of the Staff Side the item was re-adjourned.

### Remuneration.

The Council re-adjourned two items under this heading, one relating to the exclusion of Small Port Allowances from the basis of calculation of War Bonus, and the other to Overtime Rates for Sundays and Public Holidays for Chief Preventive Officers.

### Staffing and Method of Work.

Following the October meetings of many Local Committees there was a good crop of staffing decisions, and the Council ratified agreements covering Woman Pension Officer Stations in Leeds and Manchester Collections, and Excise Stations in Chester, Northampton, Preston and Swansea Collections. Part of the Preston local agreement covering an extension of the Preston W.P.O. Area, which had been previously disagreed by the Council, was converted to a disagreement at Staff Side request. Another local disagreement on units for two Excise Stations in Northampton Collection was confirmed and a Belfast Committee Agreement was further adjourned.

### Office Accommodation.

Many local agreements were ratified, and one disagreement on the provision of a fire escape at a Collector's Office was adjourned for Official Side enquiry.

The Council decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, 13th December, 1940.

## RADIO

**BANKRUPT BARGAINS. GENUINE OFFER.** Brand new 1939-40 models, makers' sealed cartons, fully guaranteed, at 25% to 40% off present prices; also Portables, Midgets. Send 2d. stamp for lists.—Radio Bargains, Dept. C.J., 261-3, Lichfield Road, Aston, Birmingham.

## Civil Service National Whitley Council, Staff Side

### BILLETING ALLOWANCES

#### (a) Expenses incurred in letting normal accommodation.

1. With reference to paragraph 5 of E.O.C. 373, the Treasury have agreed that in assessing allowances in lieu of billeting for officers who have let their houses in London, agents' fees for services and stamp duty (up to £5) and charges for collecting rents may be deducted from the gross rents. For example, if the agent charged £4 for his services and stamp duty and £3 a year for collecting a rent of £50 a year, the figure to be used in calculating the officer's allowance in the first year is £43, and £47 thereafter.

2. This arrangement applies only to cases of house letting and not to sales.

#### (b) Evacuated officers called up for service with the Forces.

1. Cases are arising where an evacuated officer, who was over 25 years of age at the time of evacuation, and who was permitted to remove his furniture at public expense, is called up following the subsequent extension of the age of reservation of Civil Servants. In such cases Departments may meet the cost of removing the family and the furniture to the former locality if the officer so wishes. If the officer elects to move his furniture to a place other than the former locality, the cost of removal and the fares of the family may be refunded within the cost of the move to the permanent station, on the understanding that the officer thus forfeits any claim to the expenses of subsequent removal to the permanent station.

2. Where such an officer has been drawing an allowance based on the extra cost of rent in the reception town as compared with his rent at the permanent station, the allowance may be continued for not more than 4 weeks after his civil employment ceases, if the family continues to use the accommodation, or, in cases where it is given up, if the liability for the rent cannot be terminated. Very exceptional cases where the Department considers that the strict application of this rule would cause serious hardship may be submitted to the Treasury.

#### (c) Evacuated Officers whose London houses are damaged as the result of war operations.

1. Enquiries have been received regarding the issue of billeting allowances which are payable to evacuated officers in respect of houses which they own or are purchasing at their permanent station, after the houses have been rendered uninhabitable in air raids.

2. Having regard to the fact that the risk of damage to property is common to all, and is not affected by evacuation, and also to the position of non-evacuated staff whose property is bombed, such allowances should strictly cease as from the date when the house is rendered unfit for habitation by reason of war damage. The Treasury agree, however, that in such cases the allowances may continue for a period of 4 weeks after that date.

3. In the case of rented accommodation which is rendered uninhabitable, allowances based on the continuing rent liability should cease as from the date when rent ceases to be paid.

The terms of this circular have been agreed with the National Staff Side, and released to them for publication.

H. PARKER.

H.M. Treasury.  
17th December, 1940.



Correspondents using a nom-de-plume are assured that names and addresses (which should be given) are strictly confidential.

Freedom of the printed word is frequently allowed to enable a clear and adequate expression of views. The opinions expressed, however, are not necessarily held by the Editor, who accepts no responsibility for them.

The Editor, Customs Journal.

Dear Sir,—Regarding **that** news item in The Journal, issue of which, no doubt, caused many a capital Officer to sigh with relief, I have heard it suggested that our "Customs Journal" should follow the example and adopt a similar policy in future, so that Waterguard Officers may also be spared any mental suffering when distressing cases arise in other branches of the Customs and Excise. I trust, Mr. Editor, that you will not follow this example, and I think that when those who suggest it have time to cool down, they will realise that the reputation for good taste which has always been a precious possession of the "Customs Journal," is worth much more to us than the doubtful joys of retaliation.

Yours faithfully,

OMEGA.

The Editor, The Customs Journal.

Sir,—I should like to thank, through the medium of your columns, the many colleagues and friends whose expressions of sympathy to my wife and I have been a real comfort in the recent sad loss of our only son on active service.

Yours sincerely,

G. H. JENKINS,  
Waterguard Surveyor, Bristol.

## Wisdom from the Past (16)

### The New Station Minute.

Every night and every morn  
Some to misery are born;  
Every morn and every night  
Some are born to sweet delight.

—Blake.

## Southampton Notes

To the boys in the Forces, to the exiles and to the lads in "Blitz-town," are sent the best of good wishes for 1941, and all that may follow our entry into another New Year.

The past sixteen months of war conditions have seen many changes, and as regards Southampton itself, the past two months have seen a fine town ruthlessly ravaged by fire and blast.

Fortunately, the staff remains intact, and likewise its headquarters. It is an old saying, but one cannot do better than wish those lads in Soton all they wish themselves for the days ahead.

As for the exiles, all keeping fit, their 1940-41 experiences should stand them in good stead, following the mass-produced small port experience acquired since last July; in fact, it will soon be a case of having spent more time in the North than the South for some of them.

I happened to spot a copy of the last Soton P.S.A. meeting Minutes recently, dated May, 1940; the various Committees and appointments, made then without undue optimism, look rather sick to-day; scattered all over the country the persons so concerned must do a grin to think of that meeting at Quilter's when a "blitz" meant about as much as old Musso's "Mare Nostrum" means to-day.

There is one topic amongst the A.P.O. grade to-day which could do with a little limelight, and that is concerning the position of the "under 30's." Are we going to be called up or not? A straight answer to this question will be welcomed universally, believe me. The men on detached duty, many of whom are two or three hundred miles away from their home ports, will need to consider the future possibility of their being taken in the Services. These men should receive consideration in the event of the exemption age being raised to 30, in order that they may make the necessary arrangements for the return of their families, and maybe effects, to some place of mutual settling. One cannot very well leave the family on "detached duty"! Perhaps the desired information will be forthcoming by the time this issue goes to press, but if it is not, I hope the point raised above will be watched carefully by the War Emergency Committee.

The December-January post-bag was full of cheery messages and greetings from the Forces to the lads they left behind, and even news of the non-writers was plentiful. Here it is as briefly as it can be made. Dudley Heal and Les Twentyman, after doing "Gate Duty" for a long period, have great hopes of "taking the air" soon, following a successful change-over from Police duties. Thanks for the good news, Percy! Let us know where you are sent to, especially if the typewriter is still handy.

Jimmy James is still tying himself in knots with Morse, etc., but should be drafted shortly.

Teddy Midlane has had a pretty good stretch in the North Sea, and he has done some travelling around since he left Soton; he has also had a couple of spells in hospital, but is quite fit now.

Charlie Cardall sent a letter just too late for the December issue, but you'll be glad to know he is A1, and is naturally full of the joy of life these days. He has something to say on the subject of his garden roller, but I cannot repeat it here: in any case, the blame for that indiscretion should be addressed to Maryport, Charlie!

News of Arthur Cheney tells of his hopes of going due West shortly. He was down the Channel recently and had a chat with "Barney" Olson. Good luck, Arthur.

Ernie Soane, now a Lance-Sergeant, is in good trim, and likewise Bill Nicolson, who is hot on the trail of another commission in the same Guards regiment.

Dudley Jarvis was down in Soton recently; he is fit and expects to be "fleet-footing" it way down Wavell-way before long.

That is all the Forces news to hand to-day, but in reply to one or two enquiries from those lads I am glad to say that Bill Foot (Liverpool) is fit and well, and that when I saw him last, a few weeks ago, he was "cinder-scratching" with great vigour.

I have had no news of R. Bryant or Jim Andrews at all.

Recent correspondence and conversation indicates that our former "ever present" Colin McDougall is still going strong down at Pompey, Steve at Poole, W. P. at Swansea, and the exiles at Silloth. Another old colleague, Doug. Joy, writes from Boston, with news of himself and of Jack Langford. Both of them quite well. Our mutual friend, V. J. B., or Ben to you, is now an Air Raid Warden, so Shirley should be all right in future.

In closing, here's a good one I heard when in Soton. A private house was on fire, and a young chap dashed up to see if assistance was required. He saw a man at the gate, and upon finding that he was the owner of the house, the young chap said, "What about getting some of the furniture out?" Whereupon the owner replied, "I would do if I had my door-key, but it is in the pocket of my other suit!"

Carry on, Soton! We wish you well. It was good to be down there at Christmas, and to see the lads once more. Cheerio!  
L. B.

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## Merseyside News

Despite the menace of black-out and air raids, a goodly number attended the Executive Meeting at the Landing Stage, on Friday, November 22nd, all those present being co-opted as executive members. Mr. Kemp was again in the chair, and prompt to time District Secretary Hyland commenced the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting. These were discussed at length, and the Secretary informed members that the incident at Bromboro' Dock recently, in which one of our officers had met slight obstruction in the person of an over-zealous, but nevertheless tactless, dock watchman had been amicably settled much to the satisfaction of this department, who, at this crucial period, had no time for browbeating methods.

The members were also informed that officers on detached duty in Liverpool from others ports would

perform outport relief in the normal rota for those duties, and under the same conditions of subsistence, etc. as local officers had enjoyed. Detached officers would also be included in the port minute for the year 1941. The members were unanimous in their praise for the new scheme of attendance which had temporarily laid the bogy of uncertainty regarding the best methods of safety to be employed during the danger period. A motion that members of the Launch Service should perform their duties at similar times of attendance, i.e., 16 hours on duty, 32 hours off, as falling to Waterguard River Officers was approved.

Another motion (proposed by Mr. W. B. Clayson) that a six-monthly station minute be substituted for the present yearly station minute, was heartily and unanimously approved.

Speaking of the new minute for 1941, the secretary remarked that the Waterguard Superintendent, Mr. Herrington, had endeavoured to suit all officers regarding the proximity of stations to their homes, and that the numerous rummage crews in the port would operate mostly during reasonable and suitable hours, namely, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., leaving reasonable time to beat the black-out and other transport difficulties.

Regarding the composition of the baggage crew at the Stage, the secretary stated that officers in that category would continue, as formerly, to be drawn from officers who had not exhausted their promotion chances. A motion that A.P.O.s employed in office and/or clerical duties should be included in a system of rotation was approved. This rota did not, of course, include A.P.O.s employed in the Waterguard Superintendent's office.

In a lengthy discussion, the members arrived at the decision that, even in the face of increased number of officers at present in Liverpool, the distribution of their services among the hardest worked stations, did not show systematic application. It was decided that if officers sent to relieve the burden of such busy stations as Birkenhead, Gladstone, etc., were detailed to specific tasks, and had the benefit of an A.P.O.'s assistance, they would, in fact, be more successful in carrying out the initial intentions of the official side in the matter. Still more success, it was mooted, would attend these efforts, if the official side would co-operate more keenly in seeking advice from the staff side as to how best the strength of the staff could be applied to ensure that practice would eventually make perfect.

The staff side discussed the official side suggestion that a Preventive Officer be stationed on the Launch during the spell of duty 8 a.m./4 p.m., with the intention of collecting data for official side benefit, and expressed that the suggestion had caused them much alarm. They strongly took the view that, besides lowering the dignity of the P.O. grade, the proposition was superfluous, as all necessary data required could be obtained from the official books on board the Launch.

Other miscellaneous points of minor detail were discussed, and at the end of a two hours and a half session, a vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed and seconded.

E. G. H.

## This One's On Me!

After a practically unbroken run since the beginning of the year, Slippery Sam feels he must discontinue this column for at least a month or so. The desire to save paper, to avoid staleness, and to join in the war effort more seriously are among his reasons. We have had our serious moments, especially in the matter of the Waterguard Part in the War (now nearing fruition) and the attack on the Work and Wait Rule (a failure). We have had our jokes, funnier to the writer, maybe, than the reader. The Waterguard Glossary, the Examinees' Guide, parodies on Messieurs Gubbins, Beachcomber, Wynn and Milord Castlerosse have been put before the not-over-delighted reader; much verse; the "Bisquit"; a serial; quotations galore; all sorts of odd comments and comic oddments. And a palpitating public has had introduced to it a variety of amusing characters who, until we meet again, are giving a

### GRAND FAREWELL CONCERT

2. WHIT LEE and HALF-WIT LEE, the Famous Chinese Contortionists. The former appears with a Vicious Spiral, and the latter pretends it isn't there. The beautiful assistant Bo Nus appears, and the act can proceed. It concludes with a juggling act, in which the former, with a small staff, and after throwing away a lot of things into the wings which he hopes to retrieve later, supports Half-Wit, Nu Regs and a number of other staffs. A final roll of drums and there appears the Famous Red-Nose Comedian,

2. FIVE. He looks something like the old man in Will Hay's pictures, and, like him, is not as soft as he looks. He slides off, after uproarious patter, the moment he is relieved by those delights of the evening watch,

3. LAND'N' STAGE, the Customs Crosstalkers.

L.: Nice weather we're having?

S.: Yes, but the C.P.O.s are having it, too.

L.: I think you talk like an idiot.

S.: I gotta talk so I can be understood. Say, why were you late on duty this morning? You should'a bin here at eight o'clock.

L.: Why, what happened?

S.: You're just a clock-watcher.

L.: No, I ain't. I'm on the rummage. I'm a whistle-listener.

S.: How long do you take to get down to work?

L.: About an hour after I sign on.

S.: Have you added up the figures of that deck cargo?

L.: Yeah. Ten times.

S.: Good. Give me the answer.

L.: What, the whole ten of 'em?

S.: Nice weather we're having.

L.: This is where we came in.

And now

4. Amidst tumultuous applause, there appears RHODA, the Witch of the Waterguard, to sing Al's latest song, "It Must Reach You":

I know not where my Princess is located,

I only know that we are rightly mated.

Tho' letter, telegram or cable will not do,

By music I shall tell her my heart is true.

CHORUS: Princess, Princess, where can you be, In the land of sunshine across the sea?

Surely my love message must reach you? For in my dreams I could plainly see—etc. (This song actually exists, price sixpence, published by the Odeon Publishing Company, 3, Denmark Street, London, W.C.2. Secretaries of social clubs organising smokers, etc., might make a note that all songs by Al. Bishop, the Melodious Messenger, music by Julian Wright, are published by that firm).

She invites PRIVATE CINDER-SCRATCHER up on to the stage and dances with him; receives bouquets from LORD PETER QUINSY, the OLDEST INHABITANT (fresh from his seizures on the outward baggage in the Boer War), FUSSPOT, ex-office A.P.O.; Bisquit winners, CHAUCER, ROBERT BURNS, TOM PAYNE, NOD, HITLER'S FATHER, and other famous Customs officers; distributes favours and Sunday notes; festoons the Super with streamers consisting of tattered G.O.s, amendment slips, the O orders A.P.O.s never received and out-of-date requests for leave; gyrates before a beauty chorus of A.P.O.s recommended for the Officer grade; does three handsprings, a salute of guns from the Customs Launch is heard in the distance; Costa's Costermongers break into Roll Out the Barrel, and Slippery Sam steps up and is kissed by Rhoda and the Editor on the forehead, at which he turns into a fairy and floats off to heaven. When he returns twenty-four hours later the show is over, and he finds he has been put on the Work and Wait.

Here's to the next time.

SLIPPERY SAM.

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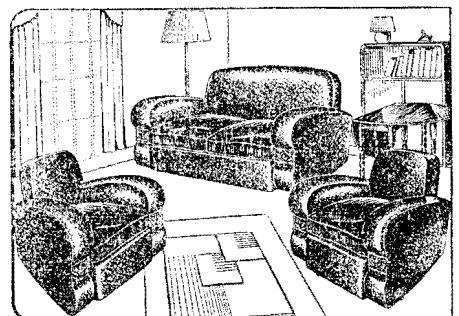
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