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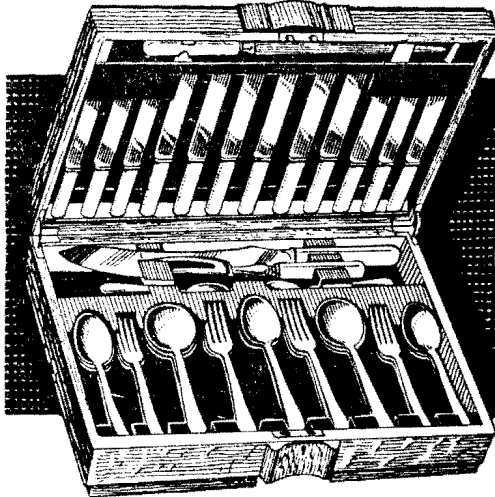
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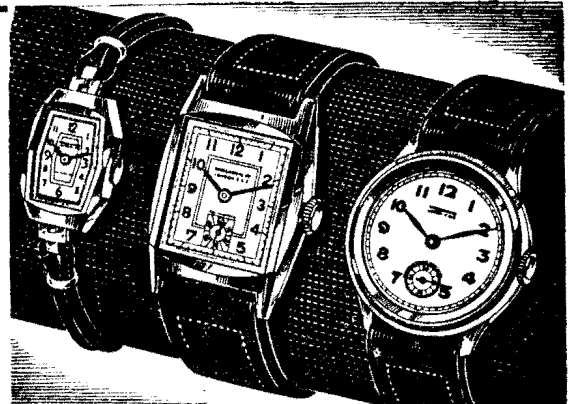
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Readers are particularly asked to note our new addresses. Although we have been able to maintain our usual service by recourse to our emergency duplicate records, your kind indulgence is requested for any unavoidable delay or inconvenience outside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

Preventive Staff Association

Temporary Office:

6, BROOK LANE, BEXLEY, KENT.

Telephone: BEXLEY HEATH 3613.

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W. E. STANDRING.

General Secretary:

W. H. POWELL.

Organising Secretary:

A. E. FARMER.

Assistant Secretary:

H. L. BOALCH.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.—*Retired Officers and outside persons wishing to become subscribers may do so on application to the Organising Secretary, 6, Brook Lane, Bexley, Kent. The charge is 6s. 0d. per annum, post free.*

CIVIL SERVICE DISTRESS FUND

The Fund is widening its scope as well as improving its organisation to give immediate help everywhere.

The Committee of Management have decided to assist where necessary with the education (including maintenance grants) of children left behind by civil servants killed during the war.

This means that in addition to regular allowances to more than 200 dependants of civil servants ranging from temporary cleaners to permanent higher executive officers, immediate assistance in bomb damage and other cases of distress, regular allowances to permanently disabled civil servants, the Fund is taking special care of children left behind either by placing them in first-class modern orphanages or assisting their guardians with their education.

Local committees are being formed in most of the principal towns in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These committees will assist locally with the work of the Fund and, in addition to making immediate grants themselves, ensure that every case has the sympathetic consideration and continued attention that only personal contact can provide.

The Fund is helping all civil servants, temporary and permanent, men and women, married or single, junior or senior.

Please do your bit to help. Regular contributions of 1d. or 2d. a week are welcomed. Ask your office agent for a form authorising deductions from pay.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

to 12th November, 1941.

TRANSFER.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER.

Swan, W., Hull to Liverpool.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS.

Davies, G. R., Llanelly.

Harris, S. T., Liverpool.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICER.

Davis, M., Preventive Man.

SHEERNESS PRESENTATION

RETIREMENT OF E. H. BRIDGES, A.P.O.

The evening of October 16th, 1941, was made the occasion by members of the Sheerness Waterguard Staff of an informal gathering at the Queens Hotel, Sheerness, to bid farewell to "Ernie" Bridges on his retirement after completing nearly 41 years in the Service, most of which was spent on the Sheerness Station.

Messrs. Millward and Hutley, P.O.s, J. Earl, A.P.O., J. Butler (Launch Service), and Mr. Jones (Excise Officer), in turn spoke of the good qualities of our old friend "Ernie". Letters were also received from Messrs. Vigeon, P.O. (Ridham Dock), H. Snow, P.O. (Chatham Dockyard), and H. J. Belger, P.O. (for Gravesend staff), regretting inability to attend, wishing "Ernie" a happy retirement.

On behalf of his many friends in the Service, a cheque was presented to "Ernie" as a token of their good wishes.

In briefly responding, "Ernie" remarked that he would always remember this happy occasion with pride, and thanked every one for their kindness and good wishes. The proceeds of the cheque would be invested in the purchase of two fireside chairs, which would serve as a useful and restful reminder of happy days spent in the Service.

Musical honours were accorded and brought the happy proceedings to a close.

A. R. M.

OBITUARY

Sgt. Pilot F. H. N. TOTHILL.

It was with sorrow that the Barry Dock staff heard of the death of Sgt. Pilot F. H. N. Tothill, late A.P.O. Appledore, who was killed when his plane crashed in this country after successfully bombing a target in Germany.

Frank Tothill spent most of his Waterguard service at Barry Dock, where his manly bearing, zeal and courtesy gained him the esteem of all grades.

We mourn the passing of a fine colleague and extend to his mother and his fiancée our heartfelt sympathy in their tragic loss.

Any letters of sympathy to his parents in their great loss will find them at the following address:—

c/o The Vicarage, Moggerhanger, Nr. Bedford.

T. M. C. and R. G. L.

CURRENT COMMENTS

MR. H. S. GREGORY, C.B.

QUITE a number of people failed to notice the first paragraph of O.W.O. 43 (probably because it was untitled), and thus missed the announcement that Mr. Gregory was returning to this Department to resume his functions as Director of Establishments.

We join our contemporary in offering a warm welcome to Mr. Gregory. In our opinion his return is very opportune for, just now, the Department is passing through strenuous and exacting times.

KENNET COMMITTEE REPORT

In answer to the Staff Side at the October meeting of the Departmental Council, the Official Side replied that the Report and its effect on this Department was still under consideration, and they promised the earliest information of any decision. To this was added a statement indicating that deferments would be kept to the absolute minimum.

Since that particular meeting we have received the promised information. The Board state that while they are anxious to release men wherever practicable, they find that, having regard to the numbers who have already joined the Forces, the needs of the Department and the difficulties of replacement, they are only able to recommend the release of the Officers and Assistant Preventive Officers in the 25 age group. The numbers affected are 177 and 58 respectively.

It should be understood that these are merely recommendations submitted to the Kennet Committee, with whom the final decision rests.

WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The November meeting of the War Emergency Committee (P.S.A.) has been arranged to take place at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, the 27th of the month and, thanks to the C. & E. Federation, it will be held at Walter House, Strand.

UNIFORM AND COUPONS

We understand that Departmental arrangements are now completed regarding the collection of coupons for officially supplied uniforms. The twelve coupons (in respect of full external uniform, including overcoat and mackintosh) will be collected in half-yearly instalments. The scheme operates for the current year ending 31st August, 1942, and six coupons will be surrendered at the beginning of the last month in each half-year. Thus, the surrender dates will be 1st February and 1st August next.

CANCELLED BANK HOLIDAYS

Members will have had cause to remember O.W.O. 23/1940, which cancelled the Whit Monday and King's Birthday Holidays in that year, and went on to state that no extra remuneration would be due in respect of attendance given on these days. The injustice of this ruling was rather galling to the members of those grades schemed to attend on these days—war or no war.

The matter has been a live issue ever since, and we are pleased to learn that in Treasury quarters the peculiar position of certain Customs and Excise Grades has now been appreciated, and that a favourable announcement may soon be expected.

RANK DISTINCTIONS.

The Board have announced that in future the gold braid sleeve decorations on new uniforms will be attached to the outer half of the cuff only.

The possibility of an early settlement of the long-standing question of rank distinctions for Assistant Preventive Officers is, we are afraid, now rather remote. The general shortage of gold braid in the country will be the reason and not, we are pleased to think, the merits or demerits of the claim.

The item was adjourned at the November Departmental Council meeting for two months.

TEMPORARY STAFFING SCHEMES

Recently there have been a few cases in which local consultative agreements on temporary staffing arrangements have been formally recorded as agreements in Committee and forwarded to the Departmental Council for ratification. These were, of course, referred back to the Local Committee.

We entirely agree with this procedure which is based on the assumption that the original port schemes should remain on the "statute" book against the return to normal times, and that these temporary war-time variations should be noted locally.

This does not imply, however, that none of these temporary schemes would ever come before the Departmental Council. Where it has been found impossible to reach local agreement informally, the matter should be tabled for the normal Whitley discussion, and this ends at the Council.

COST OF LIVING

The cost-of-living figure as at 1st October was 99 (the same as for the previous three months), and that for 1st November is a point higher at 100.

SUBSISTENCE—PER NOCTEM RATES

Having regard to the present level of charges and general shortage of accommodation the Treasury have agreed that new conditions and rates of subsistence should be introduced as a war-time measure.

The present regulations regarding "standard" and "detention" rates (Est. Inst., Vol. 3, paragraphs 54/9) will be replaced by a rule which relates the allowance to the length of stay at the new station, i.e. "short term" rates for absences of less than 12 nights, and "long term" rates for absences of 12 nights or more up to one month. Furthermore, the existing eight classes, "A" to "G," will be reduced to four main classes. These changes do not affect the commuted allowances payable to unattached staffs.

Here are the rates and the classes:—

Class	Short Term.		Long Term.		Day.
	First 7 nights.	Thereafter.	First 5 nights.	Next 23 nights.	
A	23/6	20/-	23/6	13/-	7/6
B	20/-	15/-	20/-	10/-	6/-
C	17/6	12/6	17/6	8/-	5/-
D	15/-	10/-	15/-	(i) 7/- (ii) 6/-	4/- 3/6

(Continued on page 146)

Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council

The two hundred and forty-fourth and annual meeting of the Council was held in the Conference Room, City Gate House, E.C.2, on Wednesday, 22nd October, 1941, the Chair being taken by Sir Wilfrid Eady, Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

Prior to the commencement of the business on the agenda, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. J. Cowherd, intimated the appointment of Mr. J. A. Godfrey as a member of the Staff Side in place of Mr. P. MacHugh.

MAN POWER.

The Staff Side said that they wished to bring forward four points in regard to this question, viz.:—

- (a) Remuneration for extra work performed by Customs and Excise Departmental Grades.
- (b) G.O. 32/1941—Unit values.
- (c) Investigation by both Sides of the method of application of T.C. 10/41, paragraph 2 (i) and (ii).
- (d) O.W.O. 43/1941—Report of Kennet Committee.

(a) *Remuneration for extra work performed by Customs and Excise Departmental Grades.*—The Staff Side said that, following their statement at the last meeting, they now tabled a formal claim for remuneration for the extra work performed by these grades as a result of working a 51-hour week, and they would present the claim in detail at the earliest possible moment—if possible, before the November meeting of the Council.

The Official Side, while appreciating that a claim was proposed to be made on behalf of Departmental Grades, only expressed doubt whether it was appropriate to departmental treatment, as the question of extra remuneration arose from a condition applicable to the Civil Service as a whole. Before the question arose as to what remuneration would be appropriate, there was a question of service principle involved, viz., whether any of the grades not provided for in the Treasury Circular, general service or departmental, could receive extra remuneration for the 51-hour week. This would have to be settled nationally first, and on their present advice the Official Side would be unable to enter into departmental discussion on the proposed claim. The Staff Side said they were of definite opinion that the application of national imposed conditions affecting departmental grades should be appropriate for Departmental Whitley discussion and would expedite the preparation of their claim.

(b) *G.O. 32/1941—Unit Values.*—The Staff Side referred to the informal talk which took place on the 15th October, and to the reply of the Official Side to their question on the unit values for work on the duplicate old age pensions register, and in respect of war conditions in Woman Pension Officer Stations, that general advice had been given to Collectors to adopt certain bases for this work. This had the practical effect of fixing units without any central discussion. As a reference covering both items was at present before the Outdoor Service Sectional Committee, they pressed for early discussion of the matter in the normal way in that Committee, and hoped that their protest would obviate any similar departure from orthodox procedure in the future.

The Official Side agreed that the units mentioned should be discussed forthwith in the Outdoor Service Sectional Committee.

The Staff Side then referred to the issue without prior consultation of O.W.O. 42/1941. Part 2.—*Assessment of Units in Excise Stations*—which directed the submission to the Board of cases where it was proposed to adopt certain unit values other than those approved at the last re-scheming. The effect of this would be to discount completely the expeditious local treatment of units for the purposes of G.O. 17/1940 and G.O. 32/1941, as so many Stations would be involved. Such local treatment had been insisted upon by the Official Side in face of Staff Side pressure for normal local Whitley treatment, and the Staff Side were therefore at a loss to understand the change of procedure. Furthermore, the Official Side thereby secured all the advantages of formal re-scheming, while the Staff Side secured nothing, and the introduction of the procedure now directed would vitiate expeditious application of the 51-hour week.

The Official Side suggested that the position might be clarified by an informal discussion.

(c) *T.C. 10/41, paragraph 2 (i) and (ii).*—Both Sides intimated that they were examining the points involved in this paragraph.

(d) *O.W.O. 43/1941—Report of Kennet Committee.*—The Staff Side asked for as full a statement as possible on the course being followed in considering the question of deferment. The Official Side said that at present it was only possible to say that it appeared improbable that there would be any deferment for grades other than the Officer Grade, Assistant Preventive Officer Grade, and possibly some of the Administrative Grade. At an early date they hoped they would be in a position to tell the Staff Side what was being done.

The Staff Side said they would welcome early information.

PETROL ECONOMY.

The Official Side said that following on further consultation with the Petroleum Department, they had been able to instruct Collectors that individual cases of difficulty of working within the reduced supply of petrol coupons should be treated sympathetically, and that specially difficult cases which the Collector felt unable to meet should be sent to Headquarters for consideration. Collectors would take the initiative in reviewing cases where hardship had resulted from an enforced reduction.

The Staff Side said that this statement indicated the possibility of satisfactory settlement of this question, and added that they had made their own inquiries as to the up-to-date position some twelve days previously. A further informal consultation might as a result prove desirable.

The item was re-adjourned.

FIRE PREVENTION ORDER.

With regard to the statement made at the last meeting of the Council that the Ministry of War Transport had become the appropriate authority for the formulation of fire prevention schemes in dock areas, the Staff Side inquired whether the Department had relinquished their responsibilities in this matter or whether they had been compelled to acquiesce in the new position.

The Official Side said that neither was the case: a suggestion had been made at one stage that the Customs and Excise should take the full responsibility, but in view of the many bodies at work in dock areas and the Department's relation to these from a Revenue point of view, they could not accept such responsibility. It was essential that one authority should be responsible, and the Ministry of War Transport appeared to be the most appropriate.

The Staff Side suggested that a docks area was comparable in this matter to, say, Westminster, but the Official Side could not agree; the Westminster position comprised many problems and separate interests, but the docks area had to be treated as one unit.

PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTHAMPTON COLLECTIONS.

The Staff Side regretted that the informal consultation on this matter had not convinced them of the necessity for or the desirability of the proposed amalgamation at the present time. They did not consider the present time appropriate for any adjustment of Collections generally or for Portsmouth in particular. Some dislocation would inevitably result to traders who had been accustomed to deal with one Collection Office now having to deal with another. They were not impressed by the argument that previous Admiralty objection had been withdrawn, and their information did not in fact confirm such withdrawal. The Official Side said that the reduced volume of work at Portsmouth had for some time pointed to the necessity for a review of the staffing of the area, and the question at issue did not involve any general rearrangement in Collections, but merely bringing Portsmouth into line with the general policy already adopted wherever practicable. So far as the prestige of the Department *vis-a-vis* the Naval personnel was concerned, regard must be had to the fact that the Fleet was no longer based there, and Portsmouth was therefore not of the same Naval importance. If the Staff Side were apprehensive regarding the possible loss of posts, whether in the Controlling or other Grades, the Official Side considered such apprehension unwarranted, although adjustments would, of course, require to be made if the volume of work fell so as to make the existing staffs unnecessary.

In reply to an Official Side statement that Portsmouth was a diminished Collection in charge of one member of the Controlling Grade, the Staff Side observed that Portsmouth was not the only Collection so controlled, and they doubted if the reduction of work justified such a drastic change.

The Official Side would consider the Staff Side's objections. Even if Portsmouth was still retained as the seat of a Collection, the question of staff adjustments must still require consideration.

The item was adjourned for the Official Side.

FILLING OF VACANCIES AND EMPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARY STAFF.

This item was re-adjourned for the Staff Side.

STANDARD SUBSISTENCE RATES. STAFF SIDE PROPOSAL THAT ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS BE PLACED IN CLASS C.

(Establishment Instructions, Vol. 3, paragraph 54.)

This item was re-adjourned for the Official Side.

PURCHASE TAX VERIFICATION.

The Staff Side referred to the informal discussions which had taken place on the formation of Purchase Tax Centres at Bradford, Leeds, Leicester, Nottingham and Glasgow, and said that Parts I and II of the Official Side's proposals appeared to have been deferred. The Official Side said that the establishment of the centres for Purchase Tax verification work was proceeding and that the list of traders to be considered under Parts I and II of the proposals was smaller than at first anticipated and was almost ready.

The item was re-adjourned.

PROMOTION, TRANSFER AND RECRUITMENT QUESTIONS.

(a) *Promotion to the Officer Grade.*—This was adjourned for three months at the suggestion of the Staff Side.

(b) *Appointees under paragraph 39 of the Re-organisation Report of 1920—Limitation of period of service to two years.*—This item was re-adjourned for the Staff Side.

(c) *Promotion of Sub-clerical Grades to Clerical Officer posts (Treasury and Departmental).*—The Staff Side expressed their appreciation of the thirteen promotions announced since the last Council meeting, and added that there was still a wide field for further promotions.

The Official Side said that it was their intention to keep this question under review with the object of further promotions as and when opportunity arose. The Staff Side said they would also keep the matter under observation, and the Council agreed to discharge the item from the agenda.

(d) *Promotion of Established Paperkeepers to the Clerical Class. (Implementation of Council agreement, November, 1938.)*—The Staff Side observed that the one promotion recently announced did not in their view exhaust this field, and they hoped for further promotions in due course.

The Official Side said that they would keep this matter also under review in connection with the previous item, and the Council decided to discharge the item.

(e) *Avenue of promotion to the Clerical Class for the grades of Principal Warehouseman and Warehouseman.*—The Staff Side accepted the offer made by the Official Side on this subject at the last meeting, and agreement was reached accordingly.

(f) *Recruitment to the Temporary Clerical Class, Grade III, of Unestablished Paperkeepers and Unestablished Messengers.*—In accepting the offer on this matter made by the Official Side at the last meeting, the Staff Side expressed the hope that a man transferred to a temporary clerical post would have a right to reversion to the post he had vacated and that his continued employment would be assured. Any discharge which might arise should be that of the man replacing the transferee. The Official Side agreed that the man with the longer service would have such a right, and the Council recorded agreement on the Staff Side proposals accordingly.

(g) *Recruitment to the Unestablished Paperkeeper Grade of Members of the Packer Grade (Stores Branch).*—The Staff Side accepted the offer made by the Official Side at the last meeting, and agreement was reached accordingly.

(h) *Promotions from the Clerical to the Executive Grade.*—The Staff Side asked when the promotions would be forthcoming as a result of the interview held in May, 1941, of members of the Clerical Grade for Executive posts. The Official Side said that while no definite date could be given, the proposals of the Kennet Committee left no doubt that such promotions would be needed to make good the loss of Executive personnel.

(i) *Launch Service—retention beyond normal retiring age of established personnel.*—The Staff Side said they had received the Official Side's communication disposing of their apprehensions that the opportunity for promotion to established posts would be lost in the near future by retention of established men beyond the normal retiring age. The Staff Side further understood that Unestablished Deckhands and Stoker Deckhands were not at present debarred from promotion to the established grade immediately after reaching the age of 50, and thought that the memoranda of regulations governing their employment should be amended accordingly. At the same time they pointed out that delay in promotion would inevitably reduce the aggregate length of service which could be counted for pension purposes by six months per annum. The Staff Side hoped that the position might be ameliorated. The Official Side saw some difficulty in effecting any improvement, but would give further consideration to the matter, and to the question of amendment of the memoranda of conditions of employment.

Regarding the retention beyond the age of 65 of an Unestablished Steersman, the Staff Side said that as the next few Deckhands in line for promotion were serving with H.M. Forces, there seemed to be no reason why one of these should not be given the benefit of establishment in the post occupied by the Unestablished Steersman, who could still be retained in employment in a supernumerary capacity. The Official Side said they would examine this suggestion.

UNIFORM RANK DISTINCTIONS FOR ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS.

The Official Side observed that the difficulties in obtaining and the increased cost of gold braid at the present time had resulted in an unprecedented change in the decoration of Naval Officers' uniforms. The ring itself would be curtailed and a change made in the material used. In these circumstances the Official Side considered the present time most inopportune for proceeding with the Staff Side's proposal and that it should accordingly be deferred. Consideration of the executive curl would also be better left to a future date. It might be that the rank distinctions would be more advantageously displayed on the headgear, and therefore visible when the personnel were wearing overcoats or mackintoshes.

The Staff Side said they would reconsider the matter and the item re-adjourned.

ALLOWANCE QUESTIONS.

The Staff Side inquired whether action was being taken under Establishment Officers' Circular No. 511 of 27th August, 1941, regarding the £25 allowance to Established Messengers at premises separated from Headquarters' Offices. The Official Side replied that examination of the position in this Department was proceeding.

They did not think that the personnel at the Custom House, Vintry House and Adelaide House would be affected, but were considering its application both at Blackpool and at Buxton.

An agreement from the Officer Grade Committee was ratified covering travelling allowances to Unattached Officers employed at a certain distillery Station, and two disagreements from the same Committee were confirmed, the first covering allowances to displaced Officers at Land Boundary Posts and the second covering the payment of double duty at distilleries with regular schemed assistance during the working season.

RE-SCHEMING AND METHODS OF WORK.

One staffing agreement on the control of a victualing yard was re-adjourned, and the Staff Side stated that after careful consideration of the work on clothes rationing covered by sections (3) and (4) of paragraph 4 of G.O. 18/41, they were of opinion that it was work appropriate to the clerical class. The item was adjourned for Official Side consideration.

The Council decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, 19th November, 1941.

CURRENT COMMENTS—continued from page 141.

CLASS A is the Old Class A which includes Waterguard Surveyors over £680 and grades above.

CLASS B combines the old Classes B (i) and (ii), and includes Waterguard Surveyors up to £680 and Chief Preventive Officers.

CLASS C combines the old Classes C and E, and includes Preventive Officers.

CLASS D (i) is the old Class D.

CLASS D (ii) combines the old Classes F and G, and includes Assistant Preventive Officers, Launch Service and Coast Preventive Men.

FIREWATCHING SUBSISTENCE

The attention of the Association has been drawn to two recent circulars on the question of subsistence for firewatching—in particular to the effect on the payment of subsistence for "short tours of duty."

The first of the circulars amended the rates and conditions of the subsistence as laid down in G.O. 20/41, and indicated that the lowest rate of 1s. 6d. was to be raised to 3s. where the period did not exceed 12 hours.

The second circular modified the first by stating, in effect, that tours of duty of less than 10 hours would not qualify for the new rate, and that only such subsistence that would be permissible under O.W.O. 20/41 could be paid for the time being.

The matter has been raised Departmentally, and the unique position of Waterguard Officers who tack a "short tour" of firewatching on to the beginning or end of an evening or night spell of normal duty has been fully explained to the National Staff Side.

C. & E. COAST PREVENTIVE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

We are pleased to learn that the Coast Preventive Men's Association have decided, once again, to purchase copies of this Journal for circulation among their members. It is some years now since the decision to discontinue subscriptions was taken both by that Association and the Launch Service Association.

Whilst it is true that the bulk of the matter in this Waterguard periodical is of interest only to its members, there are often features of general interest—more particularly now that the Treasury policy tends towards uniformity of treatment for various grades on many issues. Coupons for uniforms and subsistence could be cited as examples of items of interest, but the publication each month of the full report of the Departmental Whitley Council is, of itself, full justification for the decision.

We watch with keen interest the struggles of this Association to keep on an even keel—an interest which arises, quite naturally, from the fact that a past General Secretary of the P.S.A. was instrumental in organising the original Association.

FALMOUTH PROSECUTION

Prosecuting on behalf of the Commissioners, Mr. W. Richardson, relieving Waterguard Surveyor, recently conducted an interesting case at Falmouth Police Court, and succeeded in obtaining a conviction and fine of £10.

Harry Rix, hairdresser and tobacconist, was charged with knowingly dealing in uncustomed goods (six hundred and forty cigarettes) with intent to defraud. The goods had been bought from a Naval rating at twenty for a shilling and, repacked in ordinary duty-paid cartons, sold over the counter at one and six for twenty.

The defence was based on the rather thin plea that the defendant was innocent of any **intent** to defraud and he sought leniency on the grounds that he had assisted us in tracing the rating concerned.

Briefly the circumstances were that an A.P.O. on the 2/10 watch was asked to walk up the road to buy his P.O. a packet of cigarettes. When they proved (as the P.O., rather expected) to be Navy issue the P.O., and A.P.O., went up and rummaged the shop. Next evening the offender was approached by the same rating to buy some more and was intercepted in the street by the A.P.O. In the office the P.O. found some five hundred cigarettes on him.

Messrs. A. L. Wright, C.P.O., H. King, P.O., and A. G. Geary, A.P.O., gave evidence.

BRISTOL PROSECUTION

A successful day's rummaging on September 3rd resulted in Olaf Olafsen, sailor, from a Norwegian vessel lying at Avonmouth, appearing before the Bristol Magistrates the following day.

He was charged with concealing 6 lbs. cigarettes, a conviction being obtained and D.V.D. £17 3s. 0d. being awarded. Mr. R. Sinnott, C.P.O., Avonmouth, prosecuted, and called the attention of the Bench to the seriousness of the case in view of the ready market existing for cigarettes. Mr. H. G. Glass, A.P.O., of Mr. H. W. Adams, P.O., Rummage Crew, discovered the goods partially buried in coal in the bridge deck bunkers.

Two other seizures were made on the same vessel, 3½ lbs. cigarettes and 1 lb. cigarettes with ½ lb. Cav. deposits being taken in each case.

"Sunderland Calling"

Hello, Forces!

We had a surprise visit from Ron. Greenhalgh on the 22nd October: he remained with us for 48 hours. Tongues wagged merrily. Many questions asked, and answers given. Life in the R.A.F. has been kind in so far as Ron. appears to be stouter. Ron. is now Sergt.-Observer. Your visit gave us a lot of pleasure. Come again, Ron.

Happy landings with the O.T.U. Remember, you're still one of us.

My humble apologies to the big lad, Eddie Ladbrook, for calling him a signaller. I am duly "told off," and informed he is a signalman. He reports being fit and well, and enjoyed ten days' leave. I have just learnt that he clicked for another seven days' leave, while the craft he is with had a boiler clean-up. Good luck, "Big Boy"! Keep smiling. We shall look for you around Christmas.

Charlie Scarfe reports all well. He has been busy doing various courses, and still is. Tell me, Charles, is playing "Rugger" with the eyes and faces peculiar to the Duke's? I always understood it was the "Handling Code."

He reports that I am a poor journalist. Right first time; I am. But I mean to stay the course. Don't forget you have a date when next on leave.

No news of Brian Horn or Jack Gaston this month. The Navy boys are living up to their reputations of the "Silent Navy," for we lack news of their welfare. Hurry it up, lads!"

The old place still stands, and all's well.

In May, 1940, on the proposal of the late Mr. J. Noble, P.O., we instituted a parcel fund. We have 100 per cent. membership.

To date we have despatched thirty-five parcels of smokers' and general comforts to those lads serving in the Forces, not forgetting those of our flock transferred to other ports prior to outbreak of war. If they have not been treated regularly, none have been forgotten. We have collected some £34 from a staff of 17, and we hope that it has at least provided the means for a pleasurable half hour to the "Boys" who keep the old flag flying.

To Mr. Sutton, P.O., goes the credit and our thanks for the purchase and despatch of the various items included in these "cheerio" parcels. It is tough going at times, but stick to it "Bill"; the cause is worthy of the effort.

At the same time we instituted a Red Cross Fund. Mr. Lennon, P.O., proposed that the contributions paid to the Unemployed Welfare Scheme be discontinued, and that the subscription be passed to the Red Cross. This was passed, and again we report 100 per cent. membership.

Our worthy Secretary and Treasurer has to date paid to the Mayor of Sunderland some £15,000 for transmission to the Mansion House Fund.

Our various fire-fighting teams are prepared to take on any team at fire-fighting demonstrations, including part-time A.F.S. crews. Any takers?

Cheerio! Over to you, Forces!

O. H. L.

The Lads o' London

This being the month of foggy weather has meant that one has been able to spend more time replying to the endless questions asked by our friends and colleagues in the Forces. I wish that the whole of their letters relating their experiences in the Forces could be published, but, unfortunately, that is impossible. Nevertheless, whilst home on leave last month, a tour was made of most of the stations in the port, and I was able to give the lads at home fuller information by showing them some letters received. Apparently, not being content with wanting to return to the job as quickly as possible, our fighting friends require, in the meantime whilst waiting, particulars of some of the more interesting smuggling cases, so as to keep pace with the wily smuggler. One chappie would like to read of doings in the familiar places along the riverside. I have asked the people who hold the fort at home time and time again to supply me with news of their end, but, like the proverbial seed, it has fallen on stony ground. One day they will wake up.

Letters have been received recently from Bob Douglas and Alec Gerrie, and Bob said: "I have been wearing bell-bottoms for just on a year now, and the absence of a peak to my cap I no longer miss." A signalman on a light cruiser, he met Jack Trevanion for a few brief minutes in an outpost of the Empire. Both wondering if the "Journal" still keeps going! I must tell him that not only is it still very much alive, it has also increased its size recently. Alec, alias Otto Gerrie, would give a lot for a "4/11 Harpy," and said, "I've no doubt many of the lads in the Services now appreciate how good a job they had before this business started." He has been in bombers for some months now. Alec is stationed somewhere in Lincolnshire, and informed me that that part of the country is more in "Lofty" Banks' line than his. He has heard of Alan Bee's southward move to the London area, and thought that Alan had suggested a silk scarf and a beret as suitable articles to be worn with battle dress, but the War Office did not approve. All the best, Otto, and happy landings. Ladywell Rec. and Hilly Fields await your return.

Guy Gravett has got on in the Army. He is a cadet now in the Royal Artillery O.C.T. Unit, somewhere in Wiltshire.

Ernie Dewey writes from Swindon, and says he is engaged on fire-fighting, rescue and demolition work in bombed areas, and mentions that the dullerest job that falls to his unit is bomb-disposal work. He finds the companionship in the Army a good thing and the main attraction in the Service, and manages to spend several evenings during the week at an art school.

Two old friends have recently sent word of their general well-being and sustained interest in the lads o' London: one is Arthur Burnham, who is still a member of the department, and the other Colin Carthew, who was promoted to the Landing Staff two and a half years ago. Arthur is a signaller in the Royal Navy and serves aboard a destroyer. It was noticed that his letter took some weeks to reach me, and the day following the receipt of same I casually opened a copy of the famous "Life Magazine," and saw a photograph of his ship undergoing repairs, and

now I know where he is at present. Arthur was married last summer, and once again we extend our congratulations to yet another member of the staff who has "taken the plunge." Colin, too, is in the Navy. He is a telegraphist, and was called up last January, going to Skegness for six months. Then he was sent to Devonport. His ship is a sloop which carries out escort duties. Kind regards are sent by him to all former colleagues and friends.

A rumour has reached my ears that "Pip" Penfold has volunteered for the R.A.F., and one would like to hear from him.

Jimmy Sutton has left Liverpool after a stay of six months, and is now in Devonport.

Max Dunstone happened to meet Ben Battle at Fareham several times in recent months, and he wrote: "The great Ben in battle dress was a sight for sore eyes, believe me." Max had a son and heir on Boxing Day, and said that "little Max is doing fine." It is good to hear from these proud parents; perhaps, one day, after the war is over, I may be privileged to see all these infants. Jack Bushell, still in Dover, wishes the "Journal" was published more often, and sympathises with the detached officers who are away from their homes. He has heard that they suffer financially.

Before these notes finish for this month, I have, with very great regret, to inform you of the death (which makes the third that this fort has sustained), that has now been confirmed, of one who has been missing since last April—Ken Watson. Ken, who had spent the whole of his service in London, moved largely in District II circles, and was a fellow who put first things first. In his quiet and unassuming way he performed his duties, ever ready to lend a helping hand. It was my privilege to serve with him during the whole of 1939 at Surrey Docks, and to know that since he had enlisted he was ready to die if the call came. He was the only surviving child of his parents, and we are all with them in thought at this time, after a long period of suspense and waiting. Truly we cannot afford to lose men of such sterling character.

Most of us under 30 years of age have now had medical examinations, and have stated preference for one of the three branches of the fighting forces. This follows the alteration in the reserved age of Civil Servants. It is understood that the Board is seeking deferments for members of the Administrative, Officer and Assistant Preventive Officer grades. My choice is the Navy, m'lads, and when the time comes for me to go, I shall be extremely happy to serve under one of my naval officer colleagues if possible.

Now it only remains for me to wish you members of the London staff in the forces and detached officers, wherever you may be, on behalf of the Superintendent (Mr. Purser), all the very best for Christmas, and he added that he hopes the time will not be long when we shall all be back. The Inspector-General, too, sends his best wishes for a happy time at Christmas, not only to the London staff but to the staffs of the other divisions in the country, several of whose members are in the Services. He wished that he could write a personal note to each officer in the Forces, but knowing that that was impossible, he said "you are all in his thoughts."

Cheerio then, pals, and may I add my own good wishes for a very happy Christmas under the circumstances, to be spent at home if possible.

Don't forget to let me have your photographs in uniform, please.

Let's hear from you, then.

Till the lights of London shine again.

R. J. L.

IN CONTINUATION

With apologies to "R. J. L." for encroaching on his preserves, I would like to say a few words about perhaps one of the not-so-well-known Lads o' London. I refer to R. Catnach, who, after attaining the rank of Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force, was forced to return to our department, owing to medical grounds, the trouble I believe, being in consequence of doing good work over Germany. This much was learnt from this quiet, unassuming lad, who appealed unsuccessfully more than once to the Air Ministry to be allowed to "carry on" in the R.A.F.

However, he restarted his civilian job with a bang, as, upon being appointed to the "Harpy" rummage, he showed up one or two of the old 'uns by getting six or seven seizures in as many days—and jolly good concealments, too!

Carry on, Bob, and while we are sorry for your sake, you couldn't stay in the R.A.F., we are pleased and proud to have you back to carry on the good work.

COCKNEY.

LONDON OFFICERS SERVING IN H.M. FORCES

Dewey, E. G.	Private	N.C.C.
Griffin, J. J.	Telegraphist	Royal Navy
Jefferd, V. A.	L/Corporal	Royal Artillery
Sommerville, D. K.	Private	Royal Army Pay Corps

REVELS AT NEWCASTLE

This will sound like a fireman's attempt to get into gaol—an attempt which failed. As a case, it is "meaty" enough to delight a student.

The vessel, which discharged general cargo at Newcastle Quay, was in command of Captain Organ.

Mr. A. Topping, A.P.O., working under Mr. A. R. Soulsby, P.O., was first in the fray, when, after getting a smallish seizure on the quay, discovered in the locker in the firemen's quarters a parcel containing 1 3/4 lbs. Cav. tobacco and 13/16 lbs. cigarettes. Time, 5 p.m. Saturday, 4th October.

Round two came when the master of the ship intercepted one Arthur Holland (fireman) leaving the ship by stealth at 1 a.m. on the following Monday. When questioned as to the contents of the parcel which he carried, Holland strove to dispose of the body by dropping it into the murky Tyne. Unfortunately for him, the River Police launch was passing, and retrieved the parcel, which was found to contain 5 3/4 lbs. Cav. tobacco and 2 10/16 lbs. cigarettes. Mr. Holland was forced to accept the hospitality of the Police Force.

This might be enough for normal people, but not for Mr. Holland. Before his case was heard on the Monday, he had talked sufficiently to incriminate himself on a little matter of abstraction from the bonded locker. Mr. G. Varney, C.P.O., who conducted the case for the Crown, at Newcastle City Police Court, accordingly asked for a remand until the Wednesday. The matter of the abstraction had, in the meantime, been simplified by the finding under the boilers by Mr. R. B. Tindale, A.P.O. working in the rummage crew under Mr. W. Allison P.O. of 3/4 lb. cigarettes. Holland admitted that these were stolen from the bonded locker.

Before Wednesday arrived, the prisoner had also admitted ownership of the parcel found by Mr. Topping.

Holland was finally charged with "unshipping" and "attempted destruction" of the salvaged parcel, "harbouring" Mr. Topping's parcel, and "concealing" the reward of Mr. Tindale's boiler-crawl. The last-named charge was not pressed, as a larceny charge, brought by the master, was successful. Holland was fined a total of £18 8s. 2d., having pleaded for leniency on the ground of his having been a prisoner in the "Altmark."

Inquiries were not made easier by the fact that Holland had a serious imoediment in his speech

Five other seizures, totalling £19 9s., were made on the vessel.

H. G. R.

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Tyne District News

Mr. Jim Marsden, A.P.O., now at Arbroath, has been accepted as a volunteer in the R.A.F. for flying duties. He expects to enlist shortly and will train as an Observer (Radio) Pilot, which sounds like a bit of everything. We wish him luck, and thank him for paying his subs.

Called up in their age groups are Mr. E. Elliott (Shields), and Mr. G. T. Wilks (Blyth), two more A.P.O.'s, who go to swell the Navy's ranks, or messes, or whatever the Navy does. Mr. E. Elliott is at Sknegness.

Anyone desiring to write to Mr. Frank Cox, should address their letters, c/o his home at 18, King's Drive,

Whitley Bay, as he is constantly on the move. We suspect that a hammock long enough is not to be found, but the Navy never gives in.

Fred Chinnery is now a Corporal (Armourer). Congratulations, Fred!

Among the ancients who remain on the Tync, Messrs. Roy, Elliot, Ted, Wilkinson and Bill Henderson, are directly affected by the change of age of reservation. Indirectly—we're all wondering.

H. G. R.

• Southampton Notes

Last month mention was made of the exiles resting upon certain mythical laurels, but this month the lads have fairly waded into print and news is plentiful and good.

Here we go, with news of nearly half of our Forces boys. Dudley Heal, now a member of the British Flight Battalion in the U.S.A., sends greetings to you all, in company with our other correspondents to this issue. He is well and enjoying his experiences "over the pond." Like our other pals who are abroad, he writes of the grand reception received, together with details of sight-seeing expeditions when off duty, and he does not forget to acknowledge his pleasure at the receipt of this Journal. It is natural that Twenty should be associated with mention of his opposite number, but apart from last month's news of his safe arrival in South Africa, we have nothing to add yet. Next month, maybe! We have a good idea of the life he is living out there though, as only a week or two ago we had the great pleasure of welcoming home Ron, Greenhalgh, looking very fit and in good trim as a Sergeant-Observer. Strangely enough, Ron, soon linked up with old associations by reason of his homeward bound vessel being boarded by our friend, R. A. Wasp, P.O. Ron's story of the voyages in and out, and of his training spell in South Africa was very interesting. Space forbids detail, but you will have the pleasure later. He has enjoyed the course, and speaks highly of the British residents, who by this time will probably be giving old Twenty a similarly good time when off duty. Some details of the behaviour of the Nationalist element in the Union were surprising, but that is also another story which must be postponed.

Still on R.A.F. topics, but this time at home, we have good news from Jock Strachan, now in a Southern County, but pining for the North-West. Jock successfully completed his course up here, and is now in the advanced stage, and expects to be through in December. Good luck to you, Jock! Hope you have mastered the Morse by this time, and also been able to link up with Johnnie down there. The news of the announced safety of the pilot and second pilot of the plane which failed to return gives us all hope of news of your brother's safety.

The R.A.F. will soon have the services of another grand lad in George Gray, at present on D.D. at Preston. He is now R.A.F.V.R., and will be with us for a short while yet. His example in volunteering has caused the much repeated comment from his exiled colleagues: "Wish I had the guts, too," while at the same time we all join in sympathy over the news of his brother being reported missing.

Our first news of "Bill" Sykes since he was in the South is of his well-being in the Middle East. He expresses surprise over the anticipated departure of several of our bachelors to the married ranks, nor does he think a lot of the desert. His address is yours on request, likewise Davy Youdell, who has again had embarkation leave (the real thing this time!). Davy has spent recent weeks on hectic manœuvres, so we wish him a restful voyage. Best line of his current letter is: "You should see me in a topee! Boy! do I look good." Yes, we bet you do, Davy boy. Good luck to you, and remember us to Bill if you see him.

Before switching over to the boys in the R.N., may we request news of Ernie Soane and Dudley Jarvis? The latter was known to be in the North-West early this year, but contact was not established. Do your best.

A postcard from Cliff Pearson denotes a few knots covered since his previous letter, which was from a Dominion seaboard, as a picture of the Table Mountain plus his brief comments tells of some off-duty pleasure in South Africa. He was wondering if he might meet Ron, Greenhalgh, but they evidently "passed in the night."

A surprise this month was welcome news from Ted Midlane and Jimmy (D. B.) James. The former (on sick leave at the time of writing) is billeted at home, and attending a R.N. Radio Mechanical Course. We hope you will soon be fit, Ted, and able to complete the course satisfactorily. Mention is made of his meeting a Soton D.C.O., — Cooper, who will now be in the Middle East as a "Sparker," and of another, D. James (Liverpool?), who was anticipating a Naval Commission in company with Arthur Cheney. News of Jimmy James is good—he is well and very active. Home every three months, after corvetting around the Atlantic Championship contenders. He was able to contact Davy before the latter went overseas, and also contact a couple of our Liverpool exiles in October. We are looking forward to seeing Jimmy early next year.

That completes the Forces contribution, one of our best yet. They all express their appreciation of the Soton Secretary's effort in getting the C. J. to them. You are right H. G. R.! we are lucky.

By the way, regretfully, we have no news of Joe this month, but a reminder of his humour is a crack from Greenock where Joe was asked about the saluting problem. His reply was "If they look like drain-pipes, I know I am all right!" Verb. sap.

Now for the exiles; October, and Jack Welsh still with us, but not for much longer. Sexton Black back in Soton, with Steve another probable for the same route from Poole, where we are glad to hear of the return to duty of Bill Geldart.

News from Greenock to Milford Haven embraces practically all the lads on D.D., and it is pleasant enough, apart from the continued problem of accommodation, of excessive charges, of surplus populations, and of being "strangers in strange lands," particularly in the North. I guess some of the comments and suggestions received would raise some hair if they ever saw daylight. En route, I wish to extend the good wishes of certain N.W. exiles to Roger Withy (London), on D.D. at Runcorn, but at present recovering from a recent operation.

The news of Home Guard enlistment being permitted again in this area proved of interest to several exiles, one of whom is now attached to an A.A. battery. News from home is varied but quite good. De-reservation, and probable detachment of those remaining reserved form the chief topics, although fire-watching runs a close third. In case you query the de-reservation note I have to inform you of a recent O.W.O., resulting from the directions of the Kennet Committee, which proclaims the de-reservation of the 25-30 years group, subject to Departmental claims. Most of your colleagues in this group have now had their medical examination and interview. Hence the topicality of the subject throughout the land.

A revised scheme of duty rotation came into operation in Soton in October, and by all accounts it is working well. George C. is making satisfactory progress and all others remain fit. We are glad to hear that our former Launch Service colleagues, Messrs. Bradbury and Banyon, maintain contact with Soton through the medium of the "C.J."

In conclusion, this issue will probably be the last one before Christmas, particularly for our distant pals, so once again we send you all, Forces, exiles and homesters the best of good wishes for this our third wartime festive season, and for better days in 1942. The "Notes" will be maintained whatever are the effects of "The Last Round-up" now in progress. Ben will see to that. I know.

P.S.—We have just heard from Joe, who writes "the rig of the day is topee and shorts, and dripping with sweat. Swimming in water, warm, but sharks about." He is very fit and of a dark tan. Cheerio, Forces!

L. B.

Wisdom from the Past (26)

Dream on Detached Duty.

I am come hither, Diogenes, to succour and relieve thee, because I see thee in great penury and need of many things. —Erasmus.



Have you an earnest desire to be a PERFECT PIANIST? Is it your great wish to know great Music—to comprehend fully the wonderful works that you can also play on the Piano? Do you desire these things without the old-fashioned drudgery of arduous practice—in an amazingly short time, with success a certainty? Then you can fulfil your desires through my Modern, Complete Course of Pianoforte Playing and Musicianship—the Course that makes you succeed in a few short months, with the minimum of time and effort; that gives into your hands the power of technical mastery over the Pianoforte and musicianly understanding at the same time. And this power is not the only great benefit conferred by my Course. If you would know more of this Course of success—if you are not deaf to this knocking of opportunity; if your ambition is truly fired, your heart-felt desire burning and yearning for the highest consummation, send at once for the FREE Preface to my Course. Success is guaranteed, or the fee charged will be refunded in full. Write NOW to Mr. Percy Fenn-Macklin, 41, Dominion House, Bartholomew Close, E.C.1.

Liverpool Notes

The cheerful scribe who edits these notes is absent this month and I am "pinch hitting" for him. E. G. H. has had a series of domestic illnesses to worry him, and, while extending our sympathy to him and Mrs. H., we hope things will be sufficiently improved for him to grace these pages with his prose style in our next issue.

We still have meetings here, and one on November 18th was very well attended. We hope the revival of interest in Association matters, in which our "detached" colleagues set many of us a good example, will continue under the "new blood" regime instanced by the following election results:—

Chairman, A. B. Henry; vice-chairman, F. Hope; district secretary, T. J. Neill; district organiser, C. Porter; assistant secretary, T. Butcher; local Whitley councillors, T. J. Neill, C. F. Shaw; local joint representatives, T. J. Neill, J. Phillips, C. F. Shaw, T. Butcher; deputy district organiser, C. F. Shaw (a post created because the present holder of the office may have to go elsewhere).

Although following the elections, many points arose concerning a point under Overtime Equalisation, uniform (following a suggestion, forwarded to the Uniform Sub-Committee, from Whitehaven), the difficulty of keeping arrival and sailing records, etc., the main topic was, of course, man-power. An all-grade sub-committee has been formed to go into every aspect of this. Have you any ideas to give them?

Interesting contributions to the discussions were made by Mr. Clayson, Mr. Easter, Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Pollock (one of the survivors of our once all-conquering football team). Huskisson Depot is now re-occupied, but there are outstanding points to bring up before the staff is fully satisfied.

A footnote, perhaps, on "man-power" is the continued spate of seizures.

Notable work is being done by Mr. Kidman's Woodside crew. Mr. C. Wardell topped off a couple of clever detections (in life-belts) by discovering in the sandbin of a large liner (is it an official secret that large liners come to Liverpool?) a deserter who had eluded searchers all over the world!

I hope these few items will interest our pals in the Armed Forces. Not being so indefatigable a correspondent as L. B., I am a little out of touch with them (though young Hobbart appeared in the office the other day in spruce bell-bottoms), but we don't forget them. We still have a Comforts Fund, for instance. But do they get their "Journals" regularly? I'd be glad to hear of or from any of them and so, I know, would many small-port exiles, e.g., A. P., at Silloth (at which port the dock gateman-shooting season is always open). And if there's any little thing they'd like—?

C. F. S.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor, THE CUSTOMS JOURNAL.

Sir,

A reply to "Slippery Sam" (September issue), if your space permits, as such opinions voiced by your correspondent cannot be allowed to remain uncontested, nor must they be accepted as representative of his grade.

It is to be regretted that the broad and acceptable opinions expressed by C.F.S. in an earlier issue, and which to my knowledge earned several letters of approval from North to South, should be so easily contradicted by S.S.

An injustice is done to those who have attempted, and have often succeeded, to put into practice the current regulations regarding National Security, as apart from the Revenue angle, and before any more of us, who are de-reserved from December 15th, go from this Department, I feel bound to challenge S.S. on his opinions, and express a few of my own at the same time.

We do agree that we have not, in our opinions, taken a proper part as a Department in this war, and whether it be rank and file, or administrative body which is at fault, we certainly cannot push all the blame on the other side.

Do you think that we have all explored, or exploited, the limited avenues open to the Department? Have we tried, by making a real success of our own duties under the "O" Circulars, to encourage the granting of more responsibility to the Department? Have we, in spite of widely divergent personal views, put all we have into our job? Have we neglected the small things in search of the larger things? To be capable of the latter we must surely have the former absolutely "in the bag," and I challenge anyone to say they are "in the bag." Are we correct in assuming things are futile? or are we becoming narrow and personal again? We do not slink past our fellow-men in Service uniform. There must be scores, maybe hundreds, of uniformed Services Officials in S.S.'s port, who haven't done a fraction of the jobs which have been performed, and which do matter, by men of this Department.

Eleven instances are given by your correspondent, which are intended to show the muddle, the apathy, and the absence of status of the Department. Does that mean that examples of muddle, apathy and absence of status in the Services will prove their uselessness? Are all the Service men round pegs in round holes? Is every A.P.O. called-up going to do a job to which he is more fitted, and be of more use to his Country, than he would have been in the Department? Does action exceed "paper" in the Services? Does the man of deeds receive the bouquets in the Services? Whose fault is it that our officials in uniform sometimes fail to receive the proper respect from other Services? I think we can all call to mind men (of all grades) who can command respect and who deserve it. You don't hear them moaning in the watch-house! No! if blame is coming, we can accept much of the responsibility. Every man in the Department knows his limits. Have we all put both feet forward? All the time?

Let us cut out stone-throwing and get on with the job, and let us hope that after December 15th, those who are left to carry on will see to it that the job is done without fear or favour, and may I say that future letters or articles written on this subject be written without prejudice.

There is not a port in the U.K. but which can claim knowledge of excellent work achieved by the Department, meaning rank and file, and administrative body alike, but without glamour, stripes, publicity and medals. The work goes on, unseen, unheard, day after day, without credit, often with abuse, but it continues, and before we, who face a temporary separation from the Department, don other uniforms, let us place on record our knowledge that good work has been done in many places, in the face of many obstacles.

"Slippery Sam" will not be de-reserved after December 15th, nor will C.F.S., so the personal example that can be shown will perhaps prove infectious to the general benefit of the National interests, and of the Department.

Yours sincerely,

L.B.

Sir,

No doubt it was with great relief that the majority of under 30's read O.W.O. 43/41, Part I, and who knows what sighs of regret escaped from the older members of the service when they found that they also were not included in the increased age limit.

At last that feeling of frustration among the young and keen members will be washed away (always providing that too many deferments are not applied for). However, as one of those affected by the new age limit, I must say in fairness to our powers-that-be that much of the grumbling that has arisen has been unjustified. It seems that many members of the Waterguard, when enjoying a good "moan," entirely overlooked the comparative smallness of our body as a whole. In view of our small numerical strength, it really is difficult to see what job we could have adequately tackled. The port work of the F.S.P. might perhaps have been performed by us, but then where does the line of demarcation come from the many other duties of this body, and who would have been the ruling authority had we have performed their port duties—the Board or the Military Authorities?

With regard to Naval Examination work—no doubt we could have performed this much more efficiently than it has been done, but from where were we to obtain sufficient launches and crews for the job without encroaching upon Naval preserves, and thus to a certain extent coming under Naval authority?

It seems, therefore, that the only job we could have tackled (with reservation of all age groups) is the landing and shipping of all cargoes. This jealously-guarded "citadel" of the Officer grade would have strained our very limited resources to the utmost, but, no doubt, with everybody pulling their weight we could have managed it. This job, however, it can still be our aim to acquire during the post-war years.

I do think, therefore, that if only some of our members had paused to think before criticising, our

own authorities would have come in for much less unwarranted abuse, and we of the under 30's at least, can now feel satisfied that we are at last going to be called upon to do a really worth-while job—I hope.

Yours faithfully,

“PLAISTOW.”

Sir,

Methinks “Bravonian” protests too much about the importance of duties performed by Waterguard personnel.

How came it that the Security work devolves upon us? In this port it is done by F.S.C. and Immigration Staff, with the Waterguard a poor third.

I agree that we stand alone in our possession of experience in dealing with seamen—and what good has it done us?—NONE!

Instead of being allowed to participate to a large extent in Security control by reason of our specialised knowledge, we are more or less at the beck and call of other depts., C.9, F.S.C. (see O.38, para. 5).

The outbreak of war found this port crowded with vessels of different nationalities. The staff was a P.O. and three A.P.O.'s, two of the latter acting on regular occasions. Between us we did Security, Immigration, Naval and Customs duties; and further, they were done efficiently, inasmuch as we were thanked by both Immigration and Naval staffs on more than one occasion for our performance of that part of the work.

Further, my colleague here was able to be the instrument whereby one of the first war prizes was seized.

As Acting P.O. he boarded a vessel and, by dint of some smart work, ascertained that the cargo was bound for Germany—via a then neutral country.

With the collapse of France, trade to this port slackened off. Therefore, in order to assist us do less than had been done, an examination vessel was stationed here. In addition, F.S.C. and Immigration Officials arrived. Consequently, when a vessel arrives, usually coastwise, these officials come aboard to do the same job which a P.O. and A.P.O., or alternatively an acting P.O. and A.P.O. used to perform like the daring young man on the flying trapeze—i.e., with the greatest of ease.

Which leads me to another point: Why aren't the Waterguard allowed to apply for vacancies in the Immigration Staff?

The two immigration officers who work this port are ex-Post Office clerks, with no previous experience whatever, whilst we who know the job are by-passed. In connection with this point, I tackled the Chief Immigration Officer when he visited us some time ago, and he informed me that it was due to some Whitley Agreement made years ago, in which it was laid down that we were not to be eligible for transfer to the Immigration Staff.

He further stated that nothing would please him better than to have some of our fellows in his department. He had gone so far as to personally recommend the transfer of two A.P.O.'s at his own Port, only to be told it was impossible.

Why? Personally, I have been an A.P.O. since 1929, and look like being one in 1949. I consider, therefore,

that this avenue of promotion should be opened up.

In common with hundreds of other A.P.O.'s, I have ample experience of Immigration work, and I am sure we can do the job as well, if not better, than Post Office clerks.

In conclusion, I repeat that I do not agree with “Bravonian's” contention as to the importance of our duties.

In the main, we are doing a piffling job of work, based on a peace-time mode of living.

I will go further, and state that the reason we are not doing more important jobs is because the “powers that be” still regard us as too poorly educated to do anything better.

This in spite of the fact that dozens of our lads are now Pilots or Navigators in the R.A.F.

I'm not alone in this belief. I trust that before long the official side is made aware of the very real sense of frustration and disappointment existing among us.

Yours,

H. W. C.

Sir,

The somewhat enlightening views put forward by the Official Side with reference to decoration for A.P.O.'s are worthy of comment, especially so concerning the claim put forward that A.P.O.'s exert no authority on a lower Grade.

Although this is true in actual fact, the real issue at stake seems to have been evaded, and that is the comparison to be drawn between the A.P.O. and those with whom he comes into contact on duty—men of all walks of life, civilian and service who have some form of decoration on their sleeve, in accordance with their authority and status.

At the present time A.P.O.'s are also carrying out the various Waterguard duties on their own on numerous occasions, probably far more than in peace-time. While another important argument for decoration is the position of the A.P.O. in-charge who has to perform the different duties, such as Long Room work, Receiver of Wreck, etc. He at least is entitled to some form of decoration in keeping with his onerous position.

There is no one who can deny that the efficient performance of duty invested in the A.P.O. will be more easily executed if at least a ring and a curl is given to us; while at the same time the Official Side seem to be unable to give us any sound argument where the introduction of a ring and a curl for the A.P.O. will prove of a disadvantage.

The only real snag seems to be that of cost and supply. The first is but a drop in the ocean in comparison with present expenditure, especially so as the A.P.O.'s called-up for Military Service reduce the number appreciably.

The second excuse, that of supply, I will pass over by asking the simple question. When a Junior Officer in the Senior Service is granted his Commission—as many are week after week—does he enter upon his new position **without** his ring and a curl, be he R.N., R.N.R. or R.N.V.R.? I think there can be only one answer.

Yours,

“TRUE BLUE.”

CONCERNING YOUR CALL-UP

There are many things to be done when enlistment notices are received, and such thoughts as these flash through one's mind: leave before joining the unit, balance of civil pay, surrender of uniform, commissions and books of instruction, etc., and other sundry details connected with the change-over from civil to Service life. As several of our colleagues are affected by the change in the reserved age, and will think upon these things in the near future, it occurred to me that by giving some brief details of what is required of them, and of that to which they are entitled prior to enlistment, help may be given in settling their affairs before going into the Forces. Here, then, for your guidance, are the following notes:—

Call-Up.—As soon as you receive your calling-up papers, inform the Waterguard Superintendent of the fact and give him the date on which you are required to join your unit. If you are a detached officer on loan to another collection, the Waterguard Superintendent of the Division in which you are serving will inform the Superintendent of your home Division of the date of your calling-up.

Volunteers.—Officers desiring to volunteer for any branch of His Majesty's Forces in advance of call-up must obtain first the Board's permission. Applications should in the first instance be submitted through your Superintendent to the Collector, who will submit same to the Board. If anyone joins the Forces without permission he will not be eligible for the balance of civil pay.

Medical Grade III Men.—If any officer who was placed in Medical Grade III for reasons other than defective vision by the Medical Board before whom he appeared receives an enlistment notice, he is to report the fact to his Collector through the Superintendent immediately, together with particulars of his registration number, the address of the Ministry of Labour and National Service office recorded on his Registration certificate (N.S. 2), and the address and telephone number (if known) of the office from which the enlistment note was issued. Any inquiries regarding Grade III men are to be submitted to the Board.

Uniform, Commissions and Instructions, etc.—Uniform clothing and equipment issued on a personal basis, together with any commissions or other deputations, etc., identity cards (C. & E. 828), books of instruction and general orders must be surrendered prior to departure for service in the Forces. Equipment issue to detached officers in their home collections should be returned to that collection. The other surrendered articles can be returned to the normal collection, too, although there is no definite instruction on this point. The directions of the Superintendent should be sought.

Leave.—The balance of leave due under the standing regulations may be granted in order that you may be able to set your affairs in order, but if all leave due has been taken and a further period is desired, application to the Board is necessary to secure same.

Balance of Civil Pay.—Officers called up to service with H.M. Forces or allowed to serve therein on temporary engagements, and whose civil pay exceeds

their Service emoluments, will, if eligible on grounds of service (see G.O. 10/39, para. 8, pt. 1) receive the balance of their civil pay to bring up their total emoluments, service and civil, to the level of their civil pay.

NOTE.—The civil emoluments will be the salary, including bonus, of the rank held at the date of enlistment, and will include any pensionable allowance, but not overtime or Sunday pay.

Any increase in Service emoluments due to promotion will involve automatically a corresponding reduction of the balance of civil pay adjustments being made on a day-to-day basis. Any over-issues of civil pay will be deducted from Service pay.

At the end of each quarter a statement of the Service emoluments credited to each member of the Customs and Excise Department in the Forces is given by the Service paying authority to the Accountant and Comptroller-General, who calculates the balance of civil pay due to each nominee of the member of the department. Your period of service with the Forces will be reckoned as ordinary service for the purposes of increment of civil pay, and will also count towards superannuation.

Every officer called up will receive a copy of Treasury Circular 13/39, including the appendices, either before or after enlistment. The officer will be required to complete the portions of the form as required, and give instructions as to the disposal of the balance of his civil pay either by nominating some person (i.e., wife or parent) to receive it or otherwise. The completed portions of the Circular should be disposed of as directed. Deductions for insurance premiums, savings schemes, etc., will as usual be made by the Department after a fresh authority has been given by the officer concerned on the appropriate form. Insurance cards will be stamped up to the last day of civil duty and handed to officers concerned. All civil servants joining the ranks are compulsorily insurable when in the Forces.

Officers Reported Missing.—In the event of any officer being reported missing, balance of civil pay will continue to be paid thus:—

	Period not exceeding
Commissioned rank, married man ...	3 months
Commissioned rank, single man ...	1 month
Other ranks, married or single ...	3 months

If any officer has the misfortune to be reported prisoner of war, balance of civil pay, with benefit of any increments which may fall due, will continue to be paid.

Military, etc., Awards.—The Board would be pleased to learn of the grant of any military, etc., awards or distinctions to members of the Department serving with H.M. Forces.

Officers discharged from the Forces are to report for duty as soon as they cease to draw Service pay. Officers who are unable, owing to sickness, to resume civil duty immediately after their final discharge from the Forces, may be granted the amount of paid and partly-paid sick leave as laid down in the Establishment Instructions.

NOTE.—Officers should report to their Home Collections upon resuming duty.

Advances of pay prior to enlistment.—Provision is made for the grant of an advance of salary within the amount accrued to date, on application being made and satisfactory reasons given to the Collector in order to settle outstanding financial commitments.

Detached Officers who were over 25 at the time of being sent away on detached duty, and who were permitted to remove their furniture at public expense, may be allowed to remove the family and furniture back to the former locality if desired. If they elect to move their furniture to any other place, the cost of removal and fares of the family may be refunded within the cost of the move to the permanent station, on the understanding that officers forfeit any claim to the expenses of subsequent removal to the permanent Station.

These notes have been issued as a brief guide, and the official instructions can be found in General Orders 10/39 and 1/41.

One last word. Don't forget to advise the Editor of the "Journal" of your home address, and he will arrange for you to receive a copy of the "Journal" each month. This, of course, applies to Association members only. Then, after enlisting, maintain contact with your pals who remain in the Department.

R. J. L.

Hull News

Since our last Bulletin two members have temporarily left the Hull staff.

On September 15th Mr. R. Beswick, A.P.O., set a northward course for Thurso, where he took up duties for the duration. We wish him every happiness and success there.

Shortly afterwards, on September 29th, Mr. J. N. White, A.P.O., reported for duty with the Royal Navy, where he is to train as Wireless Telegraphist. To him we offer our best wishes for a happy time and a speedy safe return.

The main topic of conversation these days is rummage. Despite the fact that not only has the number of crews been reduced, but also the number of each crew reduced to two A.P.O.s, the seizures are simply rolling in, and this during war-time conditions of trade. The efforts of all crews receive general approbation. As an example of their achievement may be taken two recent "Court cases."

On Tuesday, 27th October, at Hull City Police Court, two Norwegian seamen pleaded guilty to the charge of concealing 5 2/16 and 6 lbs. cigarettes and were fined S.V.D. £7 6s. 5d. and £8 11s. 6d. respectively. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. F. Crowe, C.P.O. Mr. A. Codd, P.O., was in charge of the Rummage Crew, and Mr. L. Walton A.P.O., discovered the cigarettes in each case.

N. S. M.

THE BOSUN'S SONG ?

Ay, pretty frocks,
On the f'rard decks,
And men in gay suits lazin',
Making gay,
In a noisy way,
But one, I see, sits gazin'.

I ha' no doubt,
Tho' hardly out,
His gaze is for the ocean.
In sight of land,
The sea's command
Has stirred some strange emotion.

Then leave your chair,
And lubber's fare,
While friends are finding legs.
Let's sit awhile,
And time beguile,
Midst canvas, blocks and kegs.

I'll tell the tale,
How once in sail,
A lad I was and slender.
I tugged and strove,
With a bogey stove,
When sent to seek a fender.

Of a Cap'n Groat,
Who died afloat,
To haunt the ship he vowed.
Then strange to say,
They saw next day,
A monkey in a shroud.

Of death at sea,
And mutiny,
Of slaves and buccaneers.
Of treasure chests,
And pirates' nests,
And tales of privateers.

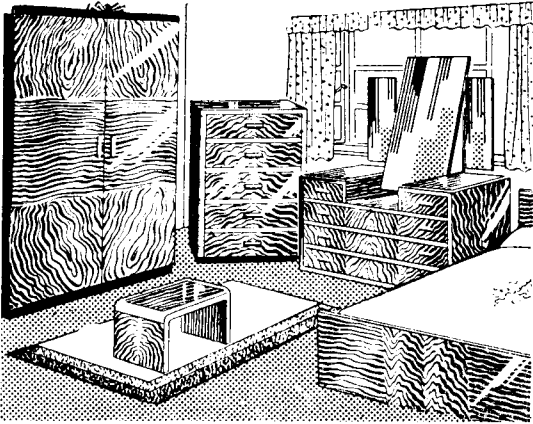
Of comrades lost,
When ships are tossed
By roaring mighty seas.
When manly fears,
Gone past all tears,
Pleads God that they shall ease.

And so with me,
I met the sea,
And pledged to Her my years,
Without regret,
Or time to fret,
Her call for toil and tears.

So tho' you seem
In strange daydream,
Enchanted by the sea.
Beware her call,
Lest you should fall
Beneath her mastery.

J. K. K.

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