

THE CUSTOMS JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CUSTOMS & EXCISE PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION

EST. 1904

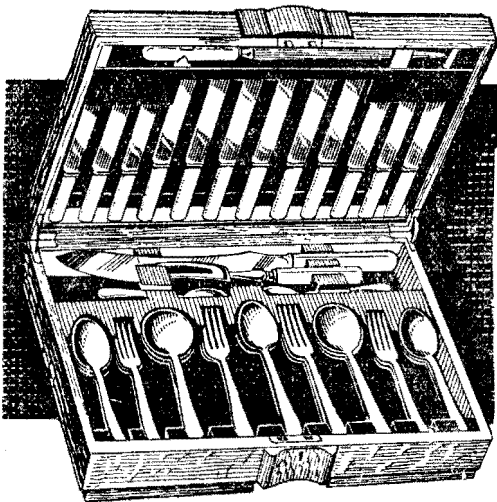
Vol. 39. No. 955.

APRIL, 1942.

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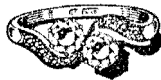


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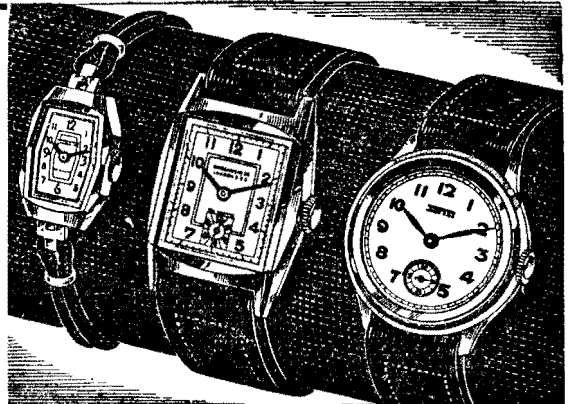
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Telephone: BEXLEY HEATH 3613.

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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," H.M. Customs and Excise, 5, Odessa Street, Rotherhithe, London, S.E.16. It is essential that all matter for insertion in the monthly issue should reach the Editor on or before the 10th of the month of publication. Articles submitted need not be typewritten, but the use of one side of the paper renders a great assistance.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—All enquiries relating to advertisement space should be addressed to the Advertisement Contractors, A. Darby's Advertising Service, 24 & 26, Water Lane, London, E.C.4. Telephone: City 6686 & 6687. Telegrams: Darbiads, Cent, London. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Editor's approval.

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, 6, Brook Lane, Bexley, Kent. The charge is 3s. 0d. per annum, post free.

INLAND REVENUE AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE PROVIDENT SOCIETY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in Room A, Ground Floor, Vintry House, Queen Street Place, London, E.C.4 (North Side of Southwark Bridge), on Thursday, the 28th May, 1942, at 5.30 p.m., to receive the Annual Report and the Accounts and for general business.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts will be exhibited on office notice boards, and a copy will be sent to any member on request being made to the Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

A. S. DAWE,
Secretary.

CIVIL SERVICE LIFEBOAT FUND

The following are additional subscriptions to 23rd March, 1942:—

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Cardiff Waterguard Division ..	3	0	6
Leith	2	8	6
Belfast District	1	12	0
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CHANGES IN THE STAFF

to 13th APRIL, 1942.

TRANSFERS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS.

Bailey, A. A., Gravesend, London, to Llanelly, Swansea.
Billett, R. A., Barry Dock, Cardiff, to Liverpool.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

DEATH.

WATERGUARD SURVEYOR.

Hughes, T. O., Gravesend, London.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER.

Shearer, J. F., Dover.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Bultitude, W., Chief Preventive Officer.

Drew, A. B., Preventive Officer.

Hook, S., Preventive Officer.

Jury, C. E., Assistant Preventive Officer.

Parsons, F. J., Preventive Officer.

Ropke, A. J., Preventive Officer.

Stanley, R., Preventive Officer.

Titheridge, A. J. H., Preventive Officer.

OBITUARY

MR. THOMAS O. HUGHES,
Waterguard Surveyor, Gravesend.

Seldom have the Waterguard staffs in London and Gravesend been so deeply moved as they were on the 26th March when word was passed round that Tom Hughes had died that morning. It was known that he was suffering from pneumonia, which had followed a severe attack of bronchitis, but it was understood that he was making fair progress towards the recovery of good health. He suffered a relapse, however, which caused the attendance of his wife at his bedside in hospital until 5 a.m., when she left him sleeping peacefully, but she had barely reached her home when she was hurriedly recalled to the hospital.

In typical English spring weather burial took place on the 30th at Gravesend Cemetery, following a Service, which included a personal tribute from the preacher to the character of our late colleague, conducted by the Rev. A. A. Burrows at St. Mary's Church, in which the lesson was read by the Rev. S. Lister, the Headmaster of Gravesend County School.

Gravesend Waterguard Officers in uniform acted as bearers, and it is doubtful if there was any off-duty member of the staff who was not present to pay his last respects to the man they all so affectionately called "The Guv'nor." The high esteem in which our late colleague was held was apparent by the attendance of Captain Pognard, R.N., Keith Webster, Esq., O.B.E., Chief Constable, Gravesend Police, Captain Owen, O.B.E., J.P., Ruler of Pilots, Chief Inspector Greateox, Gravesend Police, Divisional Inspector Croom, of the P.L.A. Police, and many others in the Services to which those gentlemen belong. Messrs. Service, Surveyor, Tilbury Dock; Howell, Secretaries' Office; Whettingstall, Superintendent, Dover; Purser, Superintendent, London; Merron, Assistant Inspector, in addition to many other serving and superannuated officers, also attended.

The large number of floral tributes included wreaths from colleagues at Gravesend, Sheerness, Rochester, Chatham, Ridham Dock, London, Liverpool, Preston, Holyhead and Manchester, and from friends in the Port of London Health Authority, P.L.A. Police, Gravesend Cricket Club, and Gravesend Customs Sports Club.

It is fitting to recall that Tom Hughes was one of the stalwarts of the Preventive Men's Association and the Waterguard Federation. He took an active part in the creation of the Preventive Staff Association, and London's confidence in his sound judgment and ability was repeatedly demonstrated during his period of office as Vice-Chairman, London Waterguard Local Whitley Committee.

Widespread sympathy is extended to his widow, his son Tom, who is at present serving in an Army "Airborne" unit, and his two other children, Trevor and Glyn, who are pupils at the Gravesend County School.

CURRENT COMMENTS

Mr. T. O. Hughes.

WRITERS in this issue pay such tribute to that well-liked straight-as-a-die colleague of ours—the late Waterguard Surveyor of Gravesend—that there remains little for us to say.

The present position of the Association and the improved conditions in the Waterguard generally are due solely to the solid foundations laid by those pioneers of the past pre-Whitley days, not the least active of whom was Tommy Hughes, Parliamentary Secretary. No well-organised joint Whitley discussions were available for them—theirs was the more difficult task of lobbying in the House of Commons, deputations and petitions—and taking all these things into account the results they achieved were really astounding.

Every member of the Waterguard, retired or serving, owes something to our departed friend, and we convert this fund of gratitude into terms of unbounded sympathy with Mrs. Hughes and her boys in the overwhelming tragedy of this sad bereavement.

Seizure Rewards.

In 1936, after very protracted discussions, a disagreement followed by administrative action, resulted in a change-over of system from T.D.V.-based rewards to one related solely to duty. At no time did we contest the logic of the Official Side argument that the amount of duty in jeopardy should decide the reward, and we still hold that view. On the other hand, we can quite understand the Board's concern at the rapidly rising figure of total rewards—especially since we have seen the latest Budget increases.

At the meeting of the Sectional Committee held on the 8th April, the Official Side proposals (full details of which reached the Staff Side on the 30th March) were tabled. They were:—

That the rate of reward payable in respect of seizures of tobacco goods of all kinds be stabilised at 36s. per lb., and on spirits of all kinds at £8 15s. per gallon, calculated at liquid or proof in accordance with present practice. Rewards on unowned and non-conviction cases to be one-fourth of these amounts. In the case of seizures consisting wholly of tobacco goods, the limit for option to be 8 oz. instead of 5s. duty.

The position to be reviewed at the end of the war.

After some discussion the Staff Side indicated acceptance of the principle of stabilisation, but they could not accept the figures proposed. Eventually the following counter-proposals were put forward:—

Stabilisation at:—

40s. per lb. on seizures of tobacco goods.

£10 per gal. on seizures of spirits.

Unowned Seizures.

Rewards at one-half of conviction rates.

Option limit for Tobacco Seizures.

8 oz. instead of 5s. and no rewards payable on seizures below the limit.

Limit for Automatic Rewards to be raised to:—

£15 total reward, or

£7 10s. individual reward, and

£5 other services.

Notwithstanding the big monetary loss involved, the Staff Side clearly indicated a readiness to negotiate a settlement on a stabilised-reward system, but unfortunately they met an Official Side definitely opposed to any negotiations and who had reached an unalterable decision before the meeting.

The discussions closed on a disagreement on the Staff Side proposal to adjourn. The matter now passes to the Departmental Council, so we must reserve any further comment for the time being.

Association Conference.

Members will share with us the pleasure in the announcement by the War Emergency Committee that a Council meeting will be held this year—in June, if possible.

Actually the time is so short that we wonder if this date is not a little too optimistic, but with the willing co-operation of all officials and members it should be possible to arrange a very successful Conference.

The normal elections of Councillors have been suspended; "casual" vacancies have remained unfilled; and in several cases Councillors are absent from their Areas on detached duty. This combination of circumstances created a passing

problem which has been solved by authorising each area to send two representatives (one P.O. and one A.P.O.). In areas where the original Councillors are still available, no question should arise, but where there are vacancies or absentees it will be left to the members of the grade concerned to elect representatives. In this connection we should mention that there would be no objection to a "detached" Councillor attending to represent his home constituency if the members desire it.

Full directions on this and on the forwarding of resolutions are being sent to District Organisers and Secretaries.

War Emergency Committee (P.S.A.).

The April meeting of the W.E. Committee will be held on Thursday, the 30th of the month, at Walter House, Strand, London.

Detached Duty.

Being quite unable to define a common policy which would meet the hardships of the varying types and circumstances of detachment in the Waterguard, it was decided to table an open reference and seek a solution of the difficulties by joint discussion with the Official Side.

At the meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee held this month, the Staff Side proposed that periods of detached duty should be limited to enable officers in the Waterguard who have experienced long spells of absence to return to their home ports where this is possible.

In their reply to the points put forward, the Official Side said that the difficulties were not confined to the Waterguard, or indeed to this Department only, and that special consideration had been given to cases of hardship. They undertook, however, to give sympathetic consideration both to the question as a whole and to individual places and cases. The item stands adjourned.

Leave.

The Board has agreed to allow the provisions of the third para. of O.W.O. 22/41, Part 3 (minuted leave periods to commence on alternate Mondays) to be applied to the Preventive Officer and Chief Preventive Officer Grades.

Special Inquiry Staff.

The Board's reply to the question (referred to in the last issue) as to whether it is anticipated that any further appointments to this Staff would be made from among the candidates recently interviewed has now been received. The answer is in the affirmative.

Waterguard Redundancies.

The Staff Side's request that redundancies in the Waterguard should be notified to the Treasurer was discussed at the March meeting of the Departmental Council.

In a somewhat contradictory reply the Official Side said there was no redundancy as regards the total needs of the Department, but certain personnel were redundant to the present-day requirements of their original ports. They went on to say that they were investigating the possibility of lending a few C.P.O.s—some of whom were not fully employed—to other suitable Departments for work at their own ports.

Whilst the question is still under discussion we must restrain the urge to comment, but members concerned may be sure that the Association is watching developments closely and with great interest.

Uniform and Coupons.

The number of personal clothing coupons is to be reduced from 66 to 51.

This fact gave rise to a question put by the Association as to the effect this reduced allocation would have on the number of coupons to be surrendered for the supply of uniform. One must assume that the number of coupons handed in to the Department depends on the assessment of the value of the uniform in relation to the ordinary civilian clothing. We raised no objection to the assessment which resulted in the surrender of twelve coupons out of the 66, but we must claim some adjustment to meet the new situation.

Taken to absurdity, failure to adjust surrender coupons in relation to the available personal coupons could, with continued reductions in the latter, result in practically all private coupons being required for uniform. Austerity indeed, for the Waterguard.

Members will welcome the reply we received in regard to the surrender of coupons for overalls. At least we were saved from that.

Balance of Civil Pay.

The decision of the Government to give a post-war credit of sixpence per day to members of H.M. Forces was the subject of National discussions on the question of the effect (if any) on the balance of Civil Pay. At one time it was suggested that this should be taken into account from the inception as an additional Service emolument, with a consequent reduction of balance of Civil Pay or, alternatively, that it should be allowed to accumulate and when the credit fell due for payment, be handed over to the Government.

Happily neither of these suggestions were adopted, and our colleagues in the Forces will be able to enjoy the full credit without any change in balance of Civil Pay.

The Organising Secretary.

Members generally will be pleased to learn that Mr. A. E. Farmer is now out of hospital and is convalescent at home. It will, of course, be some weeks before he is fit to return to duty and to Association work.

Customs & Excise Departmental Whitley Council

The two hundred and forty-ninth meeting of the Council was held in the Conference Room, City Gate House, E.C.2, on Wednesday, 25th March, 1942, the Chair being taken by Sir Wilfrid Eady, Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

MAN-POWER

(a) **G.O. 32/1941.**—The Staff Side stated that two meetings of the Sub-Committee had been held, and as a result agreement had been reached generally on the terms of an Omnibus Weekly Order interpreting G.O. 32/1941. They had, however, been unable to agree on a revised paragraph 15 of G.O. 32/1941 as to the units for Purchase Tax work in General Stations and the Centres. They repeated their objection to fixing average units as they did not consider it possible to average the work either on the revenue basis suggested for General Stations or on the comprehensive basis suggested for Centres. In the latter case a new method of taking the Centre as a whole was involved as well as the inclusion in a unit of travelling time and clerical assistance, and they maintained their request for Schedule 2 treatment throughout. The Official Side said that with traders numbering over 40,000 they felt they had sufficient data to determine an average unit. No traders were absolutely alike, but the units proposed would be a useful guide. In any case Schedule 2 treatment was not designed for a new block of work such as this but for features of work that did not fit into a general type. It was possible that Stations might adopt varying standards in arriving at a unit and in the interests both of the staff as a whole and of the management of the Department it was essential that standards should be satisfactory. The Staff Side said that the imposition of a uniform unit could only result in glaring anomalies and would necessitate a complete re-allocation of traders in some places.

The Staff Side referred to the provisions in the revised draft for the submission to the Board of exceptionally difficult or easy cases. On this the Official Side confirmed the statement made at the Sub-Committee that in the exceptional cases they were prepared to allow agreements to be reached locally and brought into operation, but they must require an immediate report to the Board who would, if necessary, modify the action taken locally. In reply to the Staff Side's observation that the units fixed would not be lasting the Official Side said that adjustment could be made either by giving more time (i.e. additional Officers) or by specifying in greater detail what was actually required to be done. The Staff Side said that they could see no reason for the exceptional treatment of Purchase Tax Schedule 2 cases, and such treatment would largely vitiate the local agreement insisted upon by the Official Side under G.O. 32/1941.

In reply to a question by the Staff Side the Official Side said that as the quarterly returns were received they would be examined to see what modification might be necessary. Verification had gone well so far, and it was appreciated by traders, and the Official Side were satisfied that fraud was not resulting from the present method of verification.

The Staff Side then said they regretted they could not agree to the units now proposed to be fixed nor to the Official Side suggestion of a trial period of three months. They asked whether the three stage verification (provided for in G.O. 13/1941) was now to be suspended and the Official Side replied that it would be and the instruction cancelled accordingly. The disagreement reached in the Sub-Committee on the revised paragraph 15 of G.O. 32/1941 was then confirmed, and the Official Side also said that in the circumstances they proposed to proceed with the issue of the amendment.

(b) **T.C. 10/1941, paragraphs 2 (i) and (ii).**—The Official Side expressed appreciation of the thoroughness of the Staff Side's examination of the question of less essential work. Lists of items for consideration had been exchanged and the Official Side suggested that a Sub-Committee of the Council be appointed to examine the various suggestions. Three members of each Side should comprise the Sub-Committee, with power to call for evidence from experts on either Side. If it were found that there was no serious risk to the revenue the suggestions as to which both Sides of the Committee were agreed might be put into operation forthwith. The Staff Side said that the wide range of subjects covered in the proposals, coupled with the need for expeditious treatment, necessitated fuller Staff Side representation than that suggested. It was finally agreed that a Sub-Committee should be set up, and that their report should be presented to the Council.

(c) **Kennel Committee Report.**—The Official Side stated in regard to the few conscientious objectors that conditional deferment was being granted in three cases, and three other cases were still under consideration.

In reply to a Staff Side question, the Official Side said that a draft announcement to the Service, covering the general position of deferments, was in course of preparation.

On request, the Official Side gave some information on the position of members of the Officer Grade who had registered under Industrial Registration Orders, and the Staff Side expressed appreciation.

(d) **Release of Women.**—The Official Side said a number of volunteers had been forthcoming, and they had made it clear that substitutes would be required to replace those released.

PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTHAMPTON COLLECTIONS.

The Staff Side said they understood that so far the 51-hour week was not being operated at Southampton, and that accordingly the Staff available for removal either now or as the result of the amalgamation was not clearly defined. They suggested that before the Collections were amalgamated Southampton Collector's Office should be put on a 51-hour week and the surplus staff removed. The Official Side said that point would be examined and cleared up, and steps would then be taken forthwith to proceed with the arrangements for the amalgamation of the two Collections. They hoped to be able to make a statement as regards the working of the 51-hour week and the staff for disposal at the next Council meeting.

The item was accordingly re-adjourned.

PROMOTION, RECRUITMENT AND TRANSFER QUESTIONS.

(a) Upon resumption of discussion of the Staff Side proposal for a **Common Seniority List for Higher Clerical Officers in Headquarter Offices**, the Official Side said they had re-examined this question, and as regards the finality of the first transfer were prepared to allow exceptionally a second transfer in special circumstances, e.g., domestic hardship, but in other circumstances the applicant could not be allowed to carry seniority with him on a second transfer and might have to enter (or re-enter) at the foot of the seniority list.

The Staff Side requested adjournment for consideration of this statement.

(b) In further discussion on the **Effect on Promotion of Re-employment or Deferral of Retirement**, the Staff Side said they must again press for consideration of the possibility of transferring qualified personnel of the higher grades to Departments where their qualifications would fit them for employment. It was inconceivable that there were no suitable places for other than basic grade people. They instanced the many "controls" now in operation, and suggested that the experience gained of goods, trades and industry by Customs and Excise personnel under the 1932 duties and later developments could be advantageously utilised in other Departments where a knowledge of these subjects was of value.

The Official Side said that they had endeavoured to arrange such transfers as those indicated by the Staff Side, and had pressed the advisability of employing experienced men rather than inexperienced people from outside. The result had not been satisfactory. The Official Side were conscious of the fact that the Department was not an expanding Department, and they were giving the matter their close attention by exploring possible alternatives to the Staff Side proposal. The item was adjourned at Staff Side request.

(c) **Vacancies in the Waterguard.**—The Official Side said that the term redundancy as regards Waterguard Grades in the Department must not be misunderstood. There was no redundancy as regards the total needs of the Department, but certain personnel were redundant to the present day requirements of their original posts. The specialised qualifications of Waterguard personnel were not readily adaptable to the needs of other Civil Service Departments, but the Official Side were investigating the possibility of lending a few Chief Preventive Officers—some of whom were not fully employed—to other suitable Departments for work at their own posts, although difficulties could be foreseen in this connection. It would be more difficult to provide suitable alternative work for the higher Waterguard grades.

The Staff Side said they would consider this statement, and the item was adjourned.

(d) **Launch Service—retention beyond normal retiring age of established personnel.**—The Official Side intimated that as a temporary war measure it had become necessary to dispense with one watch in the Launch Service programme at Sunderland, and that one crew had thus become redundant. They proposed therefore to terminate the service of the over-age unestablished Steersman, and the post would then cease to exist.

(e) **Upgrading of Temporary Clerks Grade III (T.C. 11/41 and E.O.C. 534/41).**—The Official Side said inquiries as to the work performed had been made, and on receipt of the replies the result would be communicated as soon as possible to the Staff Side.

(f) Two items under this head, **Promotion to the Officer Grade and Filling of Vacancies and Employment of Temporary Staff**, were adjourned for three months at Staff Side request.

REMUNERATION FOR EXTRA WORK PERFORMED BY CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENTAL GRADES.

This item was also readjourned for three months at the request of the Staff Side.

STAFFING AND METHODS OF WORK.

(a) **Purchase Tax—Special Verifications.**—The Official Side said that instructions had been given (verbally) that the special verification, etc., work under G.O. 40/1941 should be shared round the staff of the London Central Purchase Tax Centre as much as possible until all the personnel had had experience of the work.

The Council decided to re-adjourn the item for two months.

(b) **General.**—A local agreement on the revision of the area and equivalents of Southampton "A" Women Pension Officer Station was ratified, and similar treatment, subject to a review in the course of its working, was accorded to an agreement for a re-allocation of work in the Solicitors' Office as between Professional and Non-professional staff. One local disagreement on the discontinuance of an Excise General Station was referred back to the Local Committee for treatment under G.O. 32/1941.

The Council decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, 29th April, 1942.

THE CUSTOMS ANNUITY AND BENEVOLENT FUND

1942 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

To the Subscribers.

Gentlemen,

As a subscriber to the Fund for twenty-one years, having a close acquaintance with its work, I am urged to stand at the forthcoming election of Directors.

Elections in war-time are unwelcome to most of us, but sometimes necessary. On the ground of the general need for economy in labour, paper and money, I am using the advertisement columns of the Service press to make my candidature known, instead of issuing the customary circulars to several thousand scattered subscribers.

My purpose in standing now, with others, for a Directorship—for which my official, business and other outside experience renders me, I believe, suitable, is a desire to take part in the Fund's very efficient administration. I shall regard it as a privilege, if elected, to help to ensure that its benefits to us and our families are maintained at a high level, both during and after the War. Increasingly complex problems face us all. It seems to me desirable that these problems, so far as they affect the Fund and its subscribers, should be handled by Directors still working alongside their colleagues in the Service under the present changing conditions.

My experience of 34 years in the Department includes both Customs and Excise, Indoor and Outdoor. For the past fourteen years I have been employed on establishment work in London Port, known to all as "Room 15." I have been active for many years on the executive committee of the Orphans', Widows' and War Memorial Fund. For the past eight years I have also been Secretary-Treasurer of the Refreshment Club, formerly at the Custom House, recently re-established on a sound financial footing in two branches at Adelaide and City Gate Houses. For four years I have been on the management of Talbot House, Tower Hill, concerned especially with its finance. Before the War I interested myself in other voluntary social and educational service among unemployed and workers.

I have been nominated by a fellow Outdoor Officer, and by a Clerical Officer. I should have been glad if I might have added a Preventive Officer, but I realise the keen desire of the Waterguard to see again one of their own men on a broadly representative Board. Many of us agree. These three grades are fundamental to the Fund as they are to the Service, but I much appreciate the assurances of support that I have received from members of other grades. If a sufficient number of my colleagues of all ranks throughout the country are so good as to support me by their votes, returnable by May 7th, I shall appreciate their confidence and do my best to justify it.

Yours faithfully,

GREGORY CHASE.

To the Subscribers.

Gentlemen,

In announcing to all my Waterguard colleagues that I am standing in the forthcoming election to the Directorate of the Customs Fund, I am fortunate in the fact that I need not be lengthy. Most of you know me well enough to have already formed your opinions as to my capacity and suitability for the post to which I seek election. You are aware of my Service activities during my 34 years in the Waterguard; and there is little that I could say by way of adding to that knowledge, or of indicating my qualifications. I have accepted nomination in the belief that my fellow Waterguard Officers would regard me as a fitting candidate for election. My attitude towards matters of Waterguard interest is the same as ever and, should I be successful in this election, it can be taken for granted that the Waterguard outlook would be well safeguarded in all Fund activities. I ask for your full support of my candidature; and I rely upon my old friends to put forth their best efforts on my behalf and so secure for our own department that place in Fund affairs that has been vacant since the time when Mr. Fitzsimons was a member of the Directorate. It is the general view that the Waterguard should be so represented, and I feel that I can depend on Waterguard electors themselves to endorse this view in no uncertain style.

Yours sincerely,

J. MERRON.

T. O. Hughes

Of the twenty-three men who, on March 3rd, 1914, sat together at Privett's Hotel in Bloomsbury to form the Waterguard Federation, the organisation that fathered the Preventive Staff Association, only three remained in active service at the beginning of this year—J. Kerr, Deputy I.G.W., A. E. Howell, Senior Executive Officer, Secretaries' Office; and T. O. Hughes, Waterguard Surveyor at Gravesend. To-day only two are left, for Tom Hughes has been made one "with yesterday's sev'n thousand years."

It was on that bleak day in March, 1914, that I first met him and started a comradeship in Waterguard Association affairs that lasted until June, 1924, and a personal friendship that grew deeper with the passage of time until the day of his passing. He was a genial soul with a capacity for friendship that was unusual, and a power of attracting towards himself friendliness that was remarkable. He possessed to an exceptional degree a rectitude of mind and conduct, a strong sense of loyalty and duty to the Service and a habit of even-handed discipline that spoke volumes for his parental training. On the revenue side he had a flair—a sort of sixth sense—for picking out offenders whether on board ship or on the baggage floor, together with resource in dealing with a difficult case. The latter trait may be illustrated by an incident which occurred at Victoria Station Baggage Warehouse in the early days of the silk duties. A well-to-do lady passenger having a fair quantity of apparently new and expensive garments, obdurately insisted that they were months old, even to the extent of signing Form 104A. She had thus climbed the last barrier of fear, but Hughes audibly requested his Assistant to fetch down from the office the latest fashion books which, of course, were not there. The passenger's façade of lies immediately collapsed, and a Court case followed.

Tom Hughes was Parliamentary Secretary to the Old Preventive Men's Association, and became Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Federation, holding those posts until the emergence of the Whitley system in the Civil Service rendered that hitherto highly important job unnecessary. It was rather exacting work, in the successful accomplishment of which friendly relations with the House of Commons Police, free-lance journalists and certain officials, coupled with a knowledge of the amenities existing within the precincts were not unimportant factors. M.P.s were, and, no doubt, still are, elusive creatures, and as the Police were the liaison between them and the public it can easily be imagined that a kindly disposed constable could easily save a "lobbyer" many weary hours of waiting, either by finding the Member or announcing speedily in a stentorian voice that Mr. So and So was not in the House. I accompanied T.O.H. to the House on several occasions, and noted his popularity with various functionaries whose assistance was valuable. One instance of his speed and efficiency may be quoted. From the dim and distant past Preventive Men in London when on night duty were paid an allowance of 9d. per night; why, no one knew exactly. Some time during the last war the Board cleaned the slate clean with one sweep of the sponge. Hughes, whose spirit always leapt into flame at an injustice (Celtic fire, I suppose), telegraphed to me at Liverpool. I wired back. He went to the House, where he saw one of the Labour Party officials—I think it was Lindsey, Assistant Parliamentary Secretary—who arranged for a question to be put in the House. The Board immediately retracted to the extent that existing rights were preserved. That was what Tom gleefully called "giving 'em a 4.7." In those days the struggle for existing members was difficult and bitter enough, so we accepted our victory and did not trouble about posterity! I think our action both astonished and annoyed the Board, who were accustomed in such matters to receive solemn and subservient memorials from the Associations, to which more often than not they gave leisurely, ponderous and negative replies. At all events, I recall that later on when the stresses and strains of war conditions brought us face to face with the Board, the Deputy Chairman, Mr. (later Sir) Sidney Parry, plaintively complained that we had given them no opportunity to deal with the matter without Parliamentary publicity.

In London Association affairs, in the councils of Waterguard

politics, and in the wider sphere of the old Civil Service Federation in which he held a seat on the Executive for years, T.O.H. carried considerable weight. A man of sound judgment, keen perception, and tactical excellence, he was a tower of strength to his colleagues and particularly to myself. He was always in the forefront of developments designed to improve the pay and conditions of the Service, and the organisational machinery for achieving these results. Two monuments to his labours exist. One is G.O. 32, 1919, in which, as one of the "four H's," his signature appeared at the foot of an arbitration agreement of considerable value, and the other is the Preventive Staff Association itself.

Upon the measure of respect and esteem he won as Chief of the Gravesend Waterguard District, and in general as a colleague, the numerous officials who attended his funeral and the number of floral tributes from officers in so many parts of the kingdom were a sufficient and significant commentary.

The Crown has lost a good servant; the Waterguard Service a well-trying and devoted advocate; his staff a worthy Chief—and I my best friend. *Ave atque vale!* A.E.H.

SUNNY LEITH

We apologise for our title to those who have never made Leith's acquaintance, but the others may be wondering what has happened to dear old Sunny Leith. If it is not an official secret, Leith has been far from sunny these last few weeks. Otherwise, no change.

The war seems to have passed us by, save that four of our A.P.O.s are with the forces. Bob Mould is now a lieutenant in the Army, Archie Mitchell (ex-Hull) joined the Army, too, but seems to have forgotten we exist. Archie Wilson is with the R.A.F. ground staff, and Basil Tunstead returned to Liverpool to join an ack-ack mob. We have still to experience even a mild "blitz," and we go on our canny way, just dodging along. Our peace has been slightly disturbed lately by the arrival of a Mr. Jordan, P.O. (no relation whatsoever of the "Here comes —" gentleman) from his travels round Scotland; but trying to put life into Leith is like stirring tar. We have also welcomed Mr. Jenner, C.P.O., to our ranks.

The past year has been enlivened by one or two good seizures. Mr. Moodie, A.P.O., was responsible for a smart job, where the offender had actually constructed a box to resemble an ammunition box, filled it with cigarettes and a selection of tobaccos, and stowed it among dozens of ammunition boxes in the magazine. Facts and figures escape me, but if the gentleman concerned had been a civilian the T.V.D. would have cost him about £45. Most of our other jobs have been, as somebody said, "in the places where you always looked and found nothing before the war came."

Our principal excitement last week was a P.S.A. meeting, which brought the Detached Duty question to our notice in a letter from Methil, asking our support for the proposal that officers should have the option of returning to their home port after 12 months of D.D. This met with unanimous approval. Office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—

Chairman—Mr. Forsyth, A.P.O.

Vice-Chairman—Mr. Rolls, P.O.

District Organiser—Mr. Oliver, P.O.

District Secretary—Mr. Arnott, A.P.O.

Auditors—Mr. Ford, P.O., Mr. Henderson, A.P.O.

Local Whitley Representatives—Messrs. Arnott and Duncan, A.P.O.s, and McLaughlin, P.O.

Local Joint Whitley Representatives—Messrs. Forsyth, A.P.O., and Oliver, P.O.

The meeting was well-attended by both P.O.s and A.P.O.s, and a healthy interest was shown in the proceedings.

Some of our staff have joined our local Custom House Home Guard, which exists for the defence of the Custom House as a Static Post, and there is keen rivalry at the regular shooting practices. It is good to see Officers, D.C.O.s, Watchers and Waterguard all getting to know and appreciate each other.

J.H.

Merseyside News

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the Landing Stage on February 26th. Eighteen members of the Association were present, and with Mr. A. B. Henry in the chair, a start was made at 4.30 p.m. In order to regularise the position of those members present who were not on the Executive Committee, Mr. Shaw proposed, seconded by Mr. Porter, "That all members present be co-opted to serve on the Executive Committee for the present meeting." The proposal was carried.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. Many points were discussed, and in regard to the system of the sixteen-hours watch, Mr. Neill, the District Secretary, explained that the Board were now asking for a report on the working of the scheme, and since finding out about it, he had not had time to call a General Meeting. He wished the matter to be dealt with by the Executive Committee. Mr. Clayton, seconded by Mr. Easter, proposed "That the system be continued." The proposal was carried unanimously.

In relation to the codification of staffing arrangements, Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Halley, proposed that the question be referred to the next General Meeting. Mr. Clayton moved an amendment, "That the matter be referred to the next meeting of the Executive Committee, Messrs. Shaw and Porter in the meantime to collect as much material as possible." This was seconded by Mr. Kemp. The proposal was withdrawn, and the amendment thus becoming the proposal, the amendment was carried without further debate.

Mr. Kemp, seconded by Mr. Halley, then proposed "That the question of the employment of Preventive Officers on Stage patrol be placed on the agenda at the next General Meeting." This was carried.

Mr. Neill then said that he had been in touch with the Waterguard Superintendent in regard to the installation of heating apparatus in the Baggage hall, and that the Waterguard Superintendent wished the matter to be left in abeyance until the flow of passenger traffic increased. Mr. Clayton, seconded by Mr. W. C. Hughes, proposed "That this matter be pressed at the Local Whitley Committee meeting." The proposal was carried, and this item brought the evening's business to an early close at 6.10 p.m.

There is some news of the boys in the Forces this month. Our old friend Charlie Webster is again back in this country, and is at present billeted in Scotland. He has made a splendid recovery from his recent severe leg wounds, and is rapidly getting into form again. Well done, Charles! and thanks for the kind words.

News is to hand of Bill Oates (Silent Bill), who was home on leave recently. He is stationed in the South of England, having changed from the Army to the R.A.F., and is at present training for a post as observer. Good luck, Bill; and by the way, many congratulations on becoming a benedict.

Bert Ralph, who is in Scotland at present, hopes to be a fully fledged pilot ere long. Best wishes, you lucky person.

Also we have news of L.A.C. Ted Walker, now stationed in the Midlands, who in October passed the selection board for the pilot's course. Keep at it, Ted, and very good luck be your shadow.

Last, but not least, we had a personal visit from Major Freddie Hill, looking fit, well and rubicund. He is stationed in the North of Britain somewhere, and likes it. I bet he could enthral us with some of his Dunkirk memoirs.

Getting back to the docks again, we hear of a nice evening in Birkenhead, spent by Mr. Hyland, P.O. and Mr. Manning, A.P.O. On the 8th February—the Sabbath, mind you—these officers intercepted two naval ratings leaving Clover's Dry Dock at Birkenhead. The naval ratings sported two suitcases and one parcel. When examined, the suitcases contained 5,600 (No.) cigarettes, 1½ lbs. Navy Service tobacco, ¾ lbs. Cav. tobacco, and 16/100 u.u. spirits. Upon being asked the contents of the parcel, the naval ratings replied "Biscuits," but unfortunately the "biscuits" proved to be 500 (No.) cigarettes. So the poor little dog had none. The packages were being taken to the station, and were to be deposited there prior to the naval ratings going on leave the following day. They will, I am sure, be much safer in the cool King's Warehouse than in a stuffy damp railway station.

E.G.H.

Manchester News

The Manchester Branch of the Association held one of its rare meetings on the 27th March. The meetings are few and far between because of the small staff employed on different watches. However, on this occasion, about 75 per cent. managed to attend. Mr. L. Battersby, A.P.O., travelled up from Partington.

The business was mostly concerned with local staff matters, and the election of officials resulted as follows:—Chairman, S. Crompton, A.P.O.; Vice Chairman, B. I. Westerdale, P.O.; District Secretary and Organiser, N. Hadwen, A.P.O.; Whitley, Messrs. Westerdale, P.O., and Hulbert, A.P.O.; Journal Correspondent, J. L. Marsh, A.P.O.; Auditors, Messrs. Astle and Garlick, P.O.s. Votes of thanks were tendered to retiring officials.

We have got quite used to Mr. Westerdale's "Hull lads against the world!" and from what he says, Hull is, or was, a wonderful port. There are no flies on Weymouth, either, according to Mr. Hoare, P.O. We also have two evacuees from Southampton in Messrs. Ryan and Robson, A.P.O.s., and you may be sure we hear a lot of yarns about that port.

We hear that Messrs. B. K. Eyre-Walker and R. T. Aspinall, A.P.O.s (away with the Forces) are both doing well.

The Liverpool Rummage Crews like to have a nibble at anything bound Manchester way, but they don't get it all, indeed some of the seizures are really good, although the arrivals are mostly second and third hand. I hope to be able to record some of the jobs shortly.

Here I would like, on behalf of the staff, to extend our deepest sympathies to Messrs. Westerdale, P.O., and Hanson, A.P.O., who have both suffered recent bereavement.

To Mr. Morris, A.P.O., may we say "Hello, Twins!" J.L.M.

Tyne District News

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Custom House, North Shields, at 7.0 p.m., on Tuesday, 31st March.

The attendance was appalling, consisting of six A.P.O.'s and one P.O.—Mr. G. Hyde. The facts that our staff is severely depleted, and that a few of our regulars were genuinely unable to attend, are some excuse, but must not be allowed as a disguise for the apathy of many members.

After the Minutes of two previous meetings had been adopted, and Mr. G. Hyde had reported on steps which had been taken to follow up several of the resolutions, we proceeded to the election of officers. Mr. L. N. Cumberledge, P.O., was elected chairman, although as he was unable to attend (genuinely) we could only hope that he would accept. Mr. T. Hall, A.P.O., became vice-chairman, and Mr. E. Wilkinson, A.P.O., District Secretary—almost by acclamation. Mr. R. West, A.P.O., another genuine absentee, became again District Organiser, and Mr. Cumberledge, we hope, is the new Journal Correspondent. Messrs. A. Topping, A.P.O., and Hall, A.P.O., were elected to the local secretaryships for Newcastle and Blyth respectively, and Whitley representatives are Messrs. G. Hyde, P.O., and J. N. S. Moore and H. G. Roberts, A.P.O.s. And if that reads like a catalogue for a fat stock show I plead the difficulty of making a record of election of officers entertaining.

"Other business" brought to light several smallish matters, but the matter of the rotation of officers on detached duty on a yearly basis evoked a resolution in support. This, from a port and a meeting with no detached duty officers, was a selfless gesture. It must be made clear, however, that the naïve suggestion made recently in a letter to the "Journal" that those officers who are away at present should have the option of remaining at the distant port found no favour at all. We visualised the Longhope, Corpach and Wick type of port being the only choices for the selfless ones. It has to be on an "all or nothing" basis.

* * * * *

All who have been stationed at Newcastle will be sorry to learn that Mr. George Bennett, E.M.II, is reported missing from the "Exeter." He is universally popular, and we hope to have him singing in the office again before long.

Mr. G. R. Elliott, A.P.O., has been sent on detached duty to Stronsay, Orkney. He writes to say he is delighted with the place—no kiddin'!

H.G.R.

The Lads o' London

There has again been plenty of news from the lads in the Forces, and I was pleased to read in the last issue of the "C.J." that some of the lads have been to Greenock and visited members of the London staff on detached duty there.

A letter from Jimmy Ayton told of his general well-being, and he is now overseas on board H.M.S. *Fort York*, c/o G.P.O., London, E.C.1. Any letters sent to him will be welcomed, I know.

Lew Barnes is engaged upon some hazardous job in the Mediterranean, and we wish him all the best in his dangerous exploits. Recently he became the father of a baby son—Peter. Once again we send our congratulations to some proud parents.

I came home from a night watch the other morning with a buzzing in my ears, and when I was wading through the post, found that there was a letter awaiting me from Alan Bee. 'Twas strange, I never knew that I was psychic! Had a shock, too, when I opened same, because there was a remittance for 6s. 6d. on account of Association subs. enclosed. Alan reminded me of the days when I used to chase him at Surrey Dock for same. Unfortunately, I could never get him to pay then, but evidently his conscience has now pricked him. Of course it was returned, but with a brief note appreciating his action and informing him of Association policy in this respect. Still in the South of England, he spent most of the winter months on manoeuvres! Poor chap has been in the sick bay with impetigo, but happily is now recovering.

Have heard from the brother (who is a U.O. in the Leeds Collection) of our colleague W. R. Benson, that he is on his way overseas. His last letter dated 11th February informed his people that he had arrived in Basrah en route to India. Young Benson is a private in the 4th Indian Corps, and was in this country until December of last year. "Customs Journals" have been sent to his brother for transmission to him. In passing I should be glad to know if there are any more young A.P.O.s who were appointed to London just prior to the outbreak of the war, and with whom I am not in communication. Unfortunately Mr. Benson was missed for some time because I had never heard of him. He must be the only A.P.O. of the London staff of whom I do not know and have never met. The "Green Book" needs revising, Beer Lane.

A post card from Wally Blake and one from Ken Buttenshaw delivered on the same day, stated that they were in excellent spirits. Wally requires some news of Wally Auty, A.P.O., of Hull. Can any member of the Hull staff please oblige? Ken is still a medical orderly in a prison camp, and has been with the same wounded chaps for some months. Letters sent to our prisoner-of-war friends take about a month to reach them, and roughly about the same time for theirs to reach us. It is very pleasing to have learned that some of you have been writing to these our less fortunate pals. Keep it up, they simply yearn for home news. Their addresses were published in the Journal two months ago.

Harry Chivers "broke his silence" and sent word of himself; still engaged upon instructional duties at Tidworth; he is, I believe, pretty versatile and knows quite a lot about all sorts of machinery. Noting that Ian Hoar had written, he has promised to give him a few home truths. Alec Gerrie has been promoted from Pilot Officer to Flying Officer in the R.A.F. Our heartiest congratulations, Alec, and may you continue to have many "happy landings." At present he is in Lincolnshire and is on "Ops." Please drop me a line, there are many chaps wanting news of you. One is indebted to George Edney for this information.

A belated note, too, has been received from 2nd-Lieut. John Lambie, who has for some months now been working on the Sussex Downs. Eric Layton, who holds the same rank in the same regiment as John, has been with him all the time until quite recently, but at last they have to tread different paths.

As hinted in the February notes, George McFetrick has gone overseas, and so far has had a pleasant journey. In his letter he said that life on board is very interesting, comprising concert displays, etc., and in fact the whole ship's company is assisting to entertain one another. "The weather," he continued, "is getting uncomfortably hotter," and one can judge by his remarks as to the place he is bound to. George is our No. 1 man in the Forces, having been called up under

the old militia scheme in July, 1939. John McKenzie related how he has slept under hedges, and thought that wooden benches will seem to be soft compared with that method of sleeping, *après la guerre fini*. Bombardier John, like a few more of the lads, never seems to contact any of his former colleagues. They would appear to be poles apart. He would like some information concerning the whereabouts of Bill Menzies and of Alec Gerrie. With reference to my recent appeal for "open houses" for members of the Waterguard staff on Active Service, John's parents have intimated their willingness to assist in this scheme. So please note their address: Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie, 8, Picardy Place, Edinburgh, 1. Please insert this address in your pay-books, and take advantage of the hospitality of interested people. You have been assured of a warm welcome. Can anybody else please place their homes at the lads' disposal? Drop a line to R. J. Lowe, Landing Stage, Liverpool. I shall be grateful, and so will the chaps.

Yet another promotion announced has been that of Harry Newlyn's, who is now L./Bombardier. The parents of Flying Cadet "Pip" Penfold said that he is now flying solo, and that he has by now finished his training. "Pip" is in Georgia, U.S.A., and is having the time of his life.

An old Waterguard colleague who was mentioned in last month's "C.J." is Alan Rickson, and he is an A/C.I., R.A.F., and is near Kings Lynn. A letter from him is awaited with interest. Doug. Sommerville, who has now two stripes—one up and one down—had the honour of being the first private in his regiment (R.A.P.C.) for over two years to be awarded a good conduct stripe for unblemished character (Certifying Officers please note, there can be such a thing as an "A" character), "and as it happened," he said, "to be the first L./Corporal too, as they would persist in him taking a stripe. Rapid promotion, eh. Doug! but don't forget that such honours affect the balance of your civil pay.

The Fleet Air Arm representative has been successful in passing his exams. for navigation and communications, and now has gone to Eastleigh for a course of signals and wireless telegraphy. Jimmy Sutton met, whilst engaged upon the former course, two other A.P.O.s "in the same tack"—Messrs. P. Blackburn, of W. Hartlepool, and Tom Hill, of Chatham. Stan Wandless' photograph is to hand, and the legs do the kilt ample justice. Mrs. Waters forwarded a card from Ted, who once again thanked the boys at home for their kindness in sending to him cigarettes, and in that respect Mr. George Camburn has asked me to acknowledge, on his behalf, the receipt of £2 2s. 6d. for his prisoner-of-war comforts fund, from the London staff in Liverpool, and added that Ted Waters and Wally Blake get their parcels regularly, but Ken Buttenshaw, owing to his many moves, does not seem to be so fortunate. The newest contribution to the R.A.F.—Roger Withey—wrote from Blackpool and gave an account of the usual things that happen to "freshmen," and he expects to be there for three months.

There have been more departures from home for other spheres of service, and Bill Farmer and Bob Catnach have gone to Londonderry, whilst George Barker and Steve Dines have gone to Glasgow and Corpach respectively. What do you think of D.D. lads?

Freddie Smallwood, who was at Troon, has joined the R.A.F., and Les Walker and Tony Colan have volunteered for flying duties also in the R.A.F. Best wishes, chaps; drop me a line, please.

Bob Farmer, who is off sick, is progressing satisfactorily, but it is likely that it will be a long job, and perhaps some of his many friends would care to drop him a few lines at 78, Barnehurst Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent. Please do not write upon Association matters, as they are being dealt with in his enforced absence by the other Secretaries.

Denis Maguire now expects to be called upon for the R.A.F. early next month.

A brief word of praise this month for the Association Secretaries. They have been successful in negotiating for the A.P.O. Grade a better class of subsistence rates—D (1)—and whilst to an impatient sort of a fellow like myself, the result is not what was originally claimed, nevertheless the policy of "little by little" and "bit by bit" has once again triumphed. Good work, gentlemen!

Let's hear from you, then. Till the lights of London shine again.

R.J.L.

Cardiff News

Of late the chief topic of discussion in the Watch-house has been the Home Guard; permission to join was recently granted to a number of the staff and so now the relative merits and de-merits of the various battalions are being argued as only the Waterguard could argue such a matter. It is hoped that permission will be given to other would-be volunteers in the near future, but it appears that a little trouble with the fire-watching scheme is delaying this at the moment. This month has seen us re-introduced to this duty in official buildings. The new scheme, it is hoped, will prove more satisfactory to all concerned than hitherto.

We were all pleased to see the Annual Balance Sheets for the last two years, but unfortunately they do not seem to be as explicit as they might; this, I believe, has led to a request for information on a number of points. We hope that it will not be long forthcoming.

Another hot topic for discussion has been the suggested cut in seizure rewards; owing to the short notice and the Easter break intervening, it was not possible to hold a proper meeting on the subject, but a suggestion that now was a fine opportunity to press for their complete abolition found but one dissident. We are now wondering if this decision will meet with the same disfavour in certain quarters as our decision on the Liverpool D.D. proposal. With regard to that subject I would like to mention that the goodly number of D.D. Officers present at the meeting were themselves divided in their voting.

Our sympathies are certainly with the officer who is continually on the move, and here I would just like to wish good luck to Messrs. S. Steadman and H. C. White, who have recently packed their bags again and are now at Greenock and Liverpool respectively. At the same time hearty congratulations to Mr. E. E. Anderson on his fine recovery from so serious an illness, and to his long-awaited promotion. News of our colleagues in the Forces is rather meagre; Phil Comley and Gordon Patterson are still in the district and seem to have a liking for life in the Navy, Johnny Marsh is now a qualified "sparks," and I believe Ray Jones is a pretty handy man with a spanner; they are both in the R.A.F. It is nice to see them all looking us up when this way, and now how about a word from you others?

Now to return to business matters. With seizures so plentiful and T.V.D. so high, Court cases have become common occurrences. Most of them are pretty straightforward but, of course, there is always the awkward one. Messrs. R. E. Jones, C.P.O., and H. C. White, P.O., ran into this odd case when arresting Angel Montanes on a charge relating to 13 ozs. tobacco. Montanes, an engineer on a small coaster trading with Naval ports, produced the tobacco in "Ticklers" tins, when his room was about to be searched. He was questioned by Messrs. Jones and White as to where he had obtained the goods, but as his replies, in which he maintained that he had bought it in shops, were not considered satisfactory, he was given the "option." He elected to go to Court and was accordingly charged forthwith. He appeared before the magistrates the next day, and after a long hearing the case was dismissed; Montanes then instituted an action against Messrs. Jones and White, alleging wrongful arrest. This was heard by Mr. Justice Tucker on March 6th.

Plaintiff maintained that the story as to where he had obtained his tobacco was true, and that any apparent inaccuracies in his statement before his arrest arose through his misunderstanding of the rather inexplicit questions of the defendants. It was further argued that as the "Ticklers" tins were open, and one, containing cigarette tobacco, bore a pipe tobacco label, there was no proof that the tobacco was Naval issue, and that the defendants had attached more importance to the tins than their contents. Evidence as to the finding of the goods and the questioning of Montanes was given by Mr. J. P. Williams, A.P.O., in addition to Messrs. Jones and White. Their lot was not an enviable one, plaintiff's counsel making the utmost of every point, but Mr. Valentine Holmes, K.C., representing the defendants, managed to counter these by his skilful handling of the case. One other official witness was called, Mr. A. E. Howell; all that need be said of his evidence is that he left no doubt whatever that the tobacco was Naval issue. I

regret I am not able to give a verbatim report of the summing-up; suffice it for me to say that His Lordship found that there were reasonable grounds for preferring the charge, and that accordingly the action failed.

MANCHESTER PROSECUTION

"Everything went fine until the Customs nailed me in Manchester."

These words, spoken by the offender, more than summed up the situation, for everything did not go fine after the arrival in Manchester of a Yugo-Slav vessel on the night of the 25th March, for she was boarded down the Canal by the Rummage crew, Messrs. Dodd and Hadwin, A.P.O.'s, under the direction of Mr. E. S. Hicks, P.O.

About the time that the vessel docked, Mr. W. N. Dodd, A.P.O. rummaging in the 'tween deck bunkers, discovered under the coal 400 (No.) cigarettes, eight pairs artificial silk hose, and 326 (No.) wireless valves.

Enquiries brought forth one Patrick Coyle, a coal passer, as the owner, and later a thorough investigation of his effects revealed that he enjoyed the use of several names.

As a result of this Customs examination, the Police and Immigration Authorities also preferred charges.

Accordingly, on the 27th March, Coyle was before Salford Police Court, and after being twice remanded, the case was finally heard on the 9th April.

The Customs charges were:—

1. Evasion of duty on the cigarettes and artificial silk hose.
2. Knowingly concealing certain prohibited goods in contravention of Section 186 of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876, to wit, 326 wireless valves, with intention to evade the prohibition imposed by the Import of Goods (Control) Order, 1940.

Other charges were:—

3. Making false statements to the Immigration Officer.
4. Contriving to smuggle an alien soldier out of the United Kingdom.
5. Being in possession of several National Registration Cards, and
6. Larceny.

The defendant admitted all the charges, offered no defence, and had nothing to say.

Prosecuting for the Crown, Mr. J. T. Sutton, C.P.O., stressed the possibility of the wireless valves being destined for the "Black Market," owing to the present scarcity, and sued for treble the value of the valves (£144 7s. 9d.) and T.V.D. on the cigarettes and hose.

The magistrate, in his concluding remarks, said that Coyle was obviously a menace to society, and convicted him on all charges, the sentences being imposed as follows, and in the order given above:—

1. Three months' imprisonment,
2. Twelve months' imprisonment,
3. Three months' imprisonment,
4. Three months' imprisonment,
5. One month's imprisonment,
6. One month's imprisonment,

all the sentences to run concurrently.

J.L.M.

Southampton Notes

Our latest departure to the Forces is that of George Gray, who went to the R.A.F., Flight Section, in mid-March, at the same time as Doug. Joy entered the Intelligence Corps. We wish both of them a congenial spell of service and a safe return to our ranks.

Jimmy James proceeded from leave to another training course, after which we hope he will achieve the desired promotion.

Letters from ships at sea include those from Bill Foot, Joe and Cliff. Bill, full of spring joy, writes at length of life afloat, and recalls days of yore in Southampton and Liverpool. It is evident that the C.J. is fulfilling its purpose, when one reads of its readers' appreciation from so far afield. Joe, still awaiting the expected mail, writes of the sticky atmosphere and intense heat, of his hopes for news of the boys, and of sing-songs afloat when shore leave is impossible. He emulates Old Twenty in writing of the

thoughts of a hot meal, on a cold day, by the fireside over here. Cliff, struck oil in his January postbag as several overdue letters arrived together. By the way, do you recall our wisecrack about Cliff, being the only absentee from the "Revenge" boxing team photograph? Well, the laugh is with Cliff, this time, as the C. Pearson of boxing fame is not our heavyweight friend at all! Sorry, old boy! We hope you will be successful in your attempt to graduate into the torpedo division.

Cliff, also sends news and greetings from W. E. Hopkins (Swansea) to the boys in his home port. The two of them met on Christmas Eve under sunny skies overseas.

Johnnie Walker is now in the Midlands, and Ted Midlane, still liking the Fleet Air Arm, is somewhere in Scotland; he came across our erstwhile colleague, N. Scarlett, recently, complete with Army kit.

To complete the Forces Section we have good news of Davy Youdell in a lengthy letter from India. Very interesting is his story, and we are very glad he is keeping so fit. If he tours India as much as he toured the British Isles he will have plenty of yarns for us when he comes home again. Having been initiated as a trusty Shellback, Davy now has an advantage over we simple Pollywogs!

The South African hospitality is another enthusiastic point of his letter, which echoes the examples of Twenty and Ron Greenhalgh, when they were off duty in the Union. He closes his letter with: "Give my chin-chins to all the lads when you write." Good luck, Davy-boy!

Exiles news is rather meagre this month. In the North-West we have had another Southern D.D. arrival, B. A. Field (Cowes), who is now at Runcorn.

Old friends have been seen recently when on leave in the South, namely, Messrs. Snellgrove, Skinner and Wasp, P.O.'s, and from Liverpool we learn with interest of an enthusiastic H.G. anti-tank battery, which embraces Staff-Sergt. Snellgrove and Privates Hollingsworth (Soton) and J. D. Smith (Newhaven).

Nearer home we have the good news of Jim Andrews being back on duty and looking fit after his long spell of sick leave. A flutter was caused in the old "dove-cote" down there when some wit sent the Appointer a pretty postcard all about statues and pigeons. The postmark gave rise to a definite suspicion of one, "Charles," but time will tell! By the way, it is two years this month since E. Northfield, P.O., led his band of fire-warriors out for public displays. Happy days! Which reminds me to comment upon a local P.S.A. meeting I was privileged to attend a few days ago in Salford (or Manchester to you). It was like sweet music to hear the familiar chimes, such as "Rotation of duties," "Late Rummage," "Calls out," etc. A report of the meeting appears in this issue so I refrain from trespass, but after eighteen months lack of P.S.A. activity such a recall of past discussions only serves to increase one's anticipation for the days ahead. Cheerio, Forces! L.B.

NORTH-EAST SEIZURES

A CHEST-PUFF

It is not in any spirit of competition that we publish details of N.-E. coast seizures for the quarter ending 31st March, 1942. We cannot compete with Liverpool's figures—but then, neither can our trade. There is interest, however, in an East Coast statement as opposed to one for the West. Just remember that our trade has suffered severely, that our ships rarely carry big crews, and that our staff is partly engaged in boosting West Coast figures.

The North-East Waterguard Division then had, in the first quarter, 188 seizures, 124 of which were obtained at North Shields. These latter consisted mainly of Cav. and cigarettes, with some silk goods and mechanical lighters. An analysis reveals the following facts:—

Navy seizures, 49.

R. & R. receipts, £216.

Court cases, 5—£18 10s. in fines.

Unowned seizures, 19, involving £44 16s. 9d. single duty.

"Ships fines," 6, involving £31 15s.

Newcastle has its pride, too. Its ships have to pass Shields and they are pitifully few, but 19 seizures have been wrung from them. The other ports of the division may have something to boast about, but figures are not available.

Not bad, eh?

H.G.R.

"Sunderland Calling"

Hello, Forces!

We have news of one of the Silent Navy at last, Griffo reporting all well, doing a useful but boring job, somewhere warm. He sends his chin-chins to you, Lads of the Forces.

Charlie Scarfe reports fit and well, doing more intensive training, and hopes to be on leave before this is in print.

I have no further news of the Forces. What about you, "Big Boy"? It's time I heard from you.

I have received further news of Alan Lister from his widow, to the effect that Alan was buried in Flushing Cemetery, and was accorded full military honours by the Germans. A wreath was placed on his grave from the Red Cross. St. Hilda's Troop are dedicating their colours to his memory, when we can obtain them. The troop will be pleased to welcome any of his colleagues at the ceremony. Anyone interested should drop me a line.

George Simmons has been on a spot of leave from Ardrossan. He reports all O.K. The work is interesting, and sufficient to keep him occupied.

Bill Sutton reports having had a hectic time getting to his port. The Pentland Firth claimed another victim. He is having a tough time travelling to and from duty. I am awaiting further news of him.

The Bo'sun leaves us on the 8th for Troon. We shall miss him here, and wish him all the best. A word of warning, Bo'sun: Don't imagine everyone is agin you and don't treat life so seriously. Look after yourself; we want you back.

Frank Wilkinson is due to retire on the 2nd May, owing to the reduction of the Launch Service here. We wish you "Health, peace and plenty" in your retirement, Frank. Cheerio, Forces! We are still intact, flag mast high.

Good luck to you all.

Over to you; over!

O.H.L.

Nae Bother!

With the war shifting trade from the east and south to the west, the Firth of Clyde changed almost overnight from a bare expanse of water dotted here and there with the white sails of millionaires' yachts to a scene of somewhat greater activity.

The natives struggled valiantly with their growing burden until the piteous cries for succour from this far flung outpost of Empire reached the ears of civilisation and eager "volunteers" rushed "forthwith" to their aid. They came from south they came from east, from large ports and from small; they came in ones and then by twos and soon came by the score, but still the work, like Oliver Twist, continually asked for more.

In the van of this northerly migration were several prominent members of England's premier baggage port, and even a *son of that noble ear which twells within the marble halls of Room 11* graced for a time that office. Alas, his fame had gone before him, and now he is snatched from our midst; to such effect in fact that the peak is snatched from his cap and the bottoms of his trousers are of a width that would satisfy even the most ambitious demands of the P.S.A.! Best of luck in the Navy, Bill! All the lads send you their good wishes.

And so the Southern Hordes descended on the Clans of Clydeside, and what a welcome they received. What a welcome!

The watch house is a building ably conceived for its pre-war purpose, that of holding three men—one at a time—plus rooms for sundry supervising officers—one room for each—plus a kitchen and an attic. The size of the smaller style of suburban parlour, the General Office is divided by a partition to form a P.O.'s retiring room; the remaining space being occupied by another partition screening the door, a heavily laden table, and sundry stationery cupboards. On a fine day it is actually possible to navigate the straits

between the table on the one hand and the wall and cup-boards on the other without either sweeping away the more outlying sheafs of documents on the table or grazing one's side against the wall.

If only they would build a spectators' gallery round the office as has been done with the De Dionne Quintuplets, the sight of a harassed boarding officer, nigh trampled under-foot, entering arrivals in the Pier Head Book on the floor, of another making out primes on the window ledge, while another writes off shipping bills held against the wall, would surely be of no mean entertainment value! To bring a note of pathos to the scene would be the sight of one for whom it all has been too much—there he sits, a pitiful figure huddled in a corner, his right thumb grasped in his other hand; every now and again he withdraws his right hand and grabs vainly at his disappearing thumb, then with a frantic cry of: "Seen on board: Not Produced -" he subsides with a stifled sob and chews disconsolately at an O Circular! The more carnal minded will pass on to watch the erotic antics of a metaphorical headpiece of legendary altitude!

To say that the newcomers arrived to find a vast amount of work awaiting them is undeniably true. To say that they found themselves part of a vast and well-laid scheme, that they had the accommodation to perform their work, that they were given the tools to finish the job or even to start it might perhaps be considered an exaggeration.

Conditions have now without doubt greatly improved. Duty slip books, ships' files and the like which once hung precariously from nails now rest in the comparative safety of soap boxes salvaged from the stream: one feels more keenly what Stevenson must have meant when he wrote "Fifteen men on a dead man's chest," to say nothing of the "Yo Ho Ho" part of it.

The original transport facilities consisting of one motor boat—ample enough in the days when it was only required for a ten minutes' run to issue pratique—were augmented by two semi-open motor boats. In these the staff cruised for seldom less than eight hours a day over wide waters open to the sea and all the winds that blew—which were many and often—to say nothing of the local climate which appears to be a continuous downpour of rain. For over twelve months the doughty crews struggled on with only one day completely lost owing to weather. At long last—at very long last—three Customs launches arrived and, although not entirely ideal were, of course, immeasurably more comfortable, and quite as good as could be expected. In passing, when will the powers that be realise that an outside hand-rail on a boarding launch not only takes up valuable deck space and is most unlikely to prevent anyone who falls from going overboard, but is an intolerable nuisance when boarding a vessel or rejoining the launch, and in bad weather becomes a veritable death trap? I say this after considerable practical experience of all types of boats in all kinds of weather.

The Launch Service who likewise are exiles from hearth and home are fortunately a cheerful and willing crowd. Happily that time honoured cliché "Not Prudent," has not been heard with nearly such frequency as the more gloomy—or perhaps more experienced—prophets foretold, while, possibly owing to the fact that the average depth of water is about thirty fathoms, none have as yet uttered that other well-worn phrase "Not enough water, Boss!"

There is as yet no ideal place for mooring the launches: the winter daylight in this latitude is a bare eight hours; the long distances to be covered necessitated nearly the full watch being spent afloat if so much as the semblance of a day's work is to be done, for it has been found quite impracticable to employ a watch (apart from quarantine) after dark. Consequently the boarding officers are seldom able to land much before going-home time, and often are later, the launch crews being left to creep their way up river in the fast gathering dusk find the narrow harbour, search in the blackout for some suitable berth, and make all secure for the night; a task which may take the crews anything

from twenty minutes to an hour or more. That they continue to do this often in their own time speaks highly of their loyalty and good humour.

On joining a new port it usually takes some little while to settle down to the fresh routine which through long years has moulded itself to the peculiarities of the port. Imagine then a body of none too happy men far outnumbering the original staff being flung from all corners of the kingdom into a port which to all intents and purposes was an entirely new port with no routine, no port practice, no precedent. Consider each man worried by the wrench of sudden family parting in a world at war, nigh distracted by the task of securing apparently non-existent lodgings, of being asked rents that would stagger a millionaire for sharing accommodation as antiquated and unhygienic as the Black Hole of Calcutta. Consider each man brings with him his own ideas, his own port practice. The herding of all the animals at Whipsnade into one common pen could hardly be more calculated to produce chaos, confusion, and bloody murder. Yet somehow this last has been avoided and the first two been more or less overcome, though not, let it be said, without some sweat, blood and tears. The staff are getting together like a team, Association meetings have been held, motions tabled for Whitley, and although the staff still work in office conditions which, both as regards accommodation and locality, are the antithesis of ideal, the port is gradually being beaten out into something that will work.

Details of P.S.A. meetings are hoped to be included in a further article. Meanwhile the staff send greetings to their late colleagues at their home ports, many of whom we know are enjoying a similar fate to our own. I myself join in greeting my many good friends spread about the country, and crave the indulgence of those to whom I have for so long owed a letter.

B. A. BENNING.

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Tower Hill and the Customs

SOME HISTORY AND A SUGGESTION FOR THE FUTURE

The Days Before Yesterday

That triangle of land beside the Thames, between the Tower, the Custom House and Trinity House, saw the beginning of our English story, and has seen its unfolding down to this day.

Before Whitehall, here was the seat of Government, King's chief Palace and Fortress, Mint and Treasury. Here began the Merchant Navy and out of it came the Royal Navy, paid for from the King's Customs. Here was the control of lighthouses and of pilots. Here down the ages seamen gathered and here is their memorial.

London, chief city and port of the land, has no more significant place than this. To the Pool alongside came the earliest ships—drawn up from the swift flowing tide into "puddle dock" perhaps. Wool Quay and Galley Quay and old Custom House Quay next door recall the shipping of the Middle Ages. Trade grew and with it Customs. Close by the East India Company built its warehouses. One stands with cavernous arches still, near Trinity House. From here English ships circumnavigated the globe, weaving invisible threads across the seven seas.

King and Government moved west to Whitehall, but left here the state prison and place of execution. Here was the Navy Office where Admiral Penn and Civil Servant Pepys busied themselves with invasion problems against the Dutch. They went to Whitehall to report, but came back to Tower Hill to work and play. William Penn was born here, and Pennsylvania drew from this place its root. But is not all this and much more written in the "Pageant of Tower Hill" by Leftwich, Librarian to the Customs, in collaboration with the Vicar of this Parish?

On September 5th, 1666, Mr. Pepys climbed the tower of the Parish Church and looked out over London burning: *"I, up to the top of Barking Steeple, and there I saw the saddest sight of desolation that ever I saw; everywhere great fires . . ."*

Yesterday

By the end of the 18th century Tower Hill had passed from the centre of the stage. The last public execution had taken place there in 1780, when for the last time "The George" had the "best seats." In 1793 the Elder Brethren moved into their elegant new Trinity House on the north side of the Hill, enclosing part of it for a garden under their windows. Talbot House still stands beside it, typical City merchant's home and counting house of those times, now put to other uses hereafter mentioned.

In Victoria's long years of peace, Tower Hill had no history but of the past. It was a "resort." Day trippers in their thousands came to see the Tower or to embark for Margate and beyond. Pious pilgrims visited the execution place of good Sir Thomas More and others.

Some public buildings beside Trinity House occupied the Hill, Port of London Authority, Seamen's Registry, Marine Engineers and the Mint, but for the most part it was a place of business—warehouse-keepers and wharfingers, wine importers and shipping offices, Customs agents and carmen, small shops and restaurants. Its diminished open space was still the forum for argument "about it and about" by the mid-day crowds of workers. So it had been in the Middle Ages when seamen claimed here their rights, and earlier still when Roman citizens here walked and talked. Its character was not wholly obscured by the buildings which crowded upon it, but it became a thing to escape from, or so thought the writer and those thousands more who flowed along its stony channels all day, ebbing like a tide at evening. Then and on Sundays for those few who remained, it resumed, as he was to discover later, something of its beauty of long ago. Woodruffe Lane, now Coopers Row, must have smelt sweeter then, but flowers still bloom in Trinity Garden, and there a blackbird nests in spring and surprisingly sings. The breeze blows freshly here up and down the river channel. London's roar dies away and at night the wind stirs the branches of the planes that stand sentinel about the place of execution. Over there the great bulk of the Tower

spreads its turrets and ramparts beside the flowing stream. Lights shine through the trees from moving craft, which sound their syrens across the echoing square.

To-day

Much of Tower Hill is damaged, much destroyed. We have been through a greater fire than Pepys, and though the church tower he climbed still stands, it is a shell that was a furnace, and all around is rubble. Congested lanes and many unlovely buildings have disappeared. Among them, here and there, an old merchant's house, finely panelled, and the beautiful interiors of the church and Trinity House have been irreparably lost. But most of the buildings were of the 19th century, hardly one of them worth lamenting for departed beauty or significance. To speak truly this originally noble and historic quarter had been meanly spoiled by a century or more of commercialism.

Some there were who saw what Tower Hill had been and again might be. The famous Vicar of this—and a far wider—parish, the Rev. "Tubby" Clayton with the powerful support of Lord Wakefield, founded the Tower Hill Improvement scheme, its patron, H.M. The Queen. This influential Trust, under Lord Wakefield's presidency, pursued systematic plans for the redemption and rededication of the Hill for public purposes. One by one encroaching buildings were acquired to be demolished or handed over to appropriate authorities. Gardens and children's playgrounds, even a sandy beach, were provided for some of those thousands who exist without either, outside the Roman wall. The trustees' purpose included the exposure of that wall to public view and the clearing of the Hill to reveal its historic outlines.

Much had been achieved in the six years before the war, and more still was planned. Even our enemies have helped, for they demolished in a day what might have meant years of delay. During one of many night attacks on the City, amidst the crash of falling masonry, the writer heard a local wit murmuring: "Tower Hill improvements getting on apace."

War is with us still, and none can say how far its fires may reach, yet even now men's thoughts are turning to post-war planning. Pre-war schemes for a new order in London are being re-examined by the experts in the light of this vast conflagration. Tower Hill improvements will take their due place in to-morrow's City.

To-morrow

The Hill's long association with seamen and ships will continue. The Port of London Authority, and a restored Trinity House, Seamen's Registry, Board of Trade (Mercantile Marine), and the Customs Collector with his additional functions of Chief Registrar of Shipping, will be here or near. Either will come all concerned in the business of our greatest commercial port. Its activities, restricted now, will revive again to play their part in a world bound together by sea communications.

But commerce is not enough—men live by ideas—by the creative impulse which informs their history. Tower Hill is central in our history. It will be again a place of pilgrimage, not only for our own people, but for overseas visitors and allies.

Between the last war and this, some provision was made for such pilgrims, by All Hallows' Church and Talbot and Wakefield Houses. Toc H Overseas Office forged here a chain with links across the English-speaking world. Visitors came and went throughout the years in increasing numbers. Even in this third year of war these generous houses keep their doors open to men and women of the Forces and to others working near; lodging some, feeding more, and offering friendship to all. Seamark, next door, a residential club for young officers of the Merchant Navy, has also continued despite war damage on every side.

These efforts may have to meet even greater needs in the post-war years; they are doubtless planning ahead. The Church is already preparing its own restoration scheme.

Close by stands an empty structure with 12,000 names of merchant sailors for whom in the last war the sea was a grave. What memorial for them and those who follow after could be more fitting than a house for the living near this spot? Master Mariners too, reporting to the Customs, the Board of Trade, and their shipping companies, might find convenient headquarters here where docks and City meet.

Might not all these public interests, and others having

natural association with this place, work out here a piece of post-war reconstruction, that should benefit their members and carry forward the great tradition of the City's past into years to come?

The Suggestion

That the Customs, in which the writer serves, might show the way in this, is a purpose of the present article. Our building is damaged, and its pleasant river terrace spoiled. Rebuilding there must be, here or near at hand. Whatever changes war may bring, the Customs will still be concerned with ships and their Masters, imports and exports, lights and pilots dues. On Tower Hill might stand some permanent hall or institution related to this ancient Service.

Purposes of such a building might include:—

1. Hall or hostel for temporary residence of officials coming to the Custom House from the provinces, when first entering the Service as Unattached, Clerical, or Preventive Officers; or returning here on promotion in their various grades. The existence of such a receiving place close by official headquarters would further "Training Centre" purposes, and help to solve a recurring problem of pre-war years. The difficulty of finding suitable lodging for these young men of the future within reach of the docks is likely to be accentuated after the war.

2. Dining club for officials. The Refreshment Club which existed from 1900 in the Custom House provided latterly some 600 lunches daily for members from all branches of our own, and from half a dozen other Government Departments in the vicinity. It had an annual membership of about 1,400. The club premises have been destroyed, and it has been re-formed in two parts elsewhere. If the Head Office and the Collector, or either, return to the old building, or if a new Custom House be erected, it might be found desirable to accommodate the club elsewhere. Owing to the destruction of public restaurants in the neighbourhood the club might prove to be more than ever a necessity for Government servants working here.

3. Meeting rooms for social and educational activities related to the Service, Offices and Committee Rooms for Service organisations, e.g., Orphans' and Widows' Fund, War Distress Fund, Sports Club, Art Club, Dramatic and Operatic Society, Horticultural Society, etc., etc., and Staff Side organisations generally.

4. The main assembly room might well form, or include, a memorial to Service men lost in the wars, and other records of permanent interest.

5. Offices let for business purposes, helping to finance the House.

6. Service flats for a few senior officials needing to reside close to the head office might also strengthen the institution financially and in other ways.

The Site

Under the Bressey-Lutyens pre-war plans for London, an important thoroughfare was to pass along an enlarged Lower Thames Street, turn north-east at the Custom House (which thus becomes a pivotal point), cross Tower Hill—linking with its Improvement Scheme—and thence eastwards to the docks.

Where such a roadway mounts the Hill, will be important sites facing south to the river, and looking east over the Tower, which would provide for a material link between the Custom House and Tower Hill close by. (Another island site north of the Hill might be considered, but is less desirable.)

The Royal Academy summer exhibition of 1942 may include drawings and models relating to pre-war aspects of the City and Tower Hill.

The Building

This would necessarily be conditioned by the purposes suggested above and others related thereto—or it might form a part of a larger whole, housing allied interests.

When happily the time of rebuilding returns, the controlling authorities will rightly require such buildings on historic sites to conform to an orderly scheme for the whole quarter, not spoiling its native character, which in this case is set by the Tower itself, but making the approaches thereto seemly and spacious, and free—as the modern way is—from meaningless decoration and fictitious hotch-potch of the styles of all the ages. "We do not want either Greek or Roman models," said Blake, "if we are but just and true to our own imaginations."

Finance

Last, but never least, finance would have to be quite realistically examined by experts; but similar semi-public centres, properly managed, pay their way.

GREGORY CHASE

The Association and Democracy

I often wonder if in the Totalitarian countries any leader ever says, "In this case we'll try a spot of Democracy—there's so many things Totalitarianism won't do." Yet our democracies continually give these intolerable systems the sincerest form of flattery by making exceptions to our democratic basis. That is one evil that can kill a democracy: being totalitarian, Fascist, authoritarian, dictatorial, autocratic, oligarchic (whatever description is currently fashionable) in the name of democracy. There's another: that the demos, the people, forming the democracy should—whatever the reasons adduced—so neglect the machine they set up as to compel those working the machine to work without them.

Now, the larger implications of what I say are beyond the scope of this Journal. Let us consider, then, the application to the Association. The Association, like the State, exists for a particular purpose, and is set up, in perhaps a truer sense than the State (whose origins are a little more complex), for achieving this purpose by people desiring such results. If this seems Joad-like I will simplify it: The Association exists to improve the job, and to improve the remuneration and conditions of those doing it. Everything else it does will be found to have its origin in that joint purpose. (The "improvement of the job" part, though a corollary of the second, is a later amendment dating, roughly, from the foundation of the Whitley system.)

We believe, surely, that this institution, as all other institutions in this country, from the Home Guard up and down, is best administered democratically?

Leadership there must be, but it must be *within* the framework of a democratic system. If you disagree, I will say that there are very sound arguments in favour of totalitarianism, but it is not democracy. In fact, totalitarianism smuggled in in the name of democracy would be apt to miss the advantages of speed and efficiency the genuine article definitely is capable of. In the long run, in any case, democracy, creating fewer tensions, wins.

It will be a long time before our Service is run democratically (one has seen disciplinary measures which would have seemed harsh from a Court Martial of Wellington's day). Maybe the need for a Customs Service will have ceased before the better way of running it is introduced. We can only do our duty by stating that we believe that the "improvement of the job" would best be achieved by democratic methods, and that Whitleyism, with all it has achieved, has not achieved this; which I believe is why it was founded. We must therefore, for the present, confine ourselves to our secondary purpose: improving the conditions and pay of our members. Even pay we will leave in abeyance and simply cluster under the very wide umbrella of conditions.

Will the Association best improve our conditions, best arm itself for the terrific battle (contrary to the original spirit of Whitleyism) which the simplest Staff Side proposal now entails, locally or nationally, by being democratic or totalitarian?

Amid much interesting stuff the March Journal had a small item announcing the possibility of a return to Annual Conferences. Now I am not so naive as to think that thereby an oligarchic Association (oligarchic through no fault of its own, doubtless) becomes a democratic one. But as a Parliament, without really being democratic, is a step nearer democracy than a Cabinet, so the Council is a step nearer to the desideratum than the War Emergency Committee is.

It will not succeed, the Conference, however, nor will the larger objectives of the Association be obtained if the second danger remains. That is, if the rank and file so neglect the Association, for whatever reason, that its elected leaders (good heavens! some of those "elections"!) are compelled to act without knowledge beyond what it can get from its more articulate members in this Journal in the space left to them after the Forces Programme (not begrudged, I sincerely insist). So, if we get a Conference, comrades, to get down from what may seem an equine altitude, I will make a few simple requests originating in all I've said and much, from reasons of space, left unsaid.

Correspondence

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Sir,

Dame Rumour has it that once again the P.S.A. propose to revive the Annual Conference. Should such prove to be the case, may I be allowed to raise certain points in relation to P.S.A. finance and membership, which may well prove worthy of the serious consideration of the Councillors attending the Conference. Firstly, I would question on constitutional grounds the wisdom of the Executive Council to retain in free membership our colleagues serving with the Forces. Personally, I would be the last to deny every consideration to our absent friends, but in view of our Organising Secretary's statement that tough times lie ahead, and the imperative necessity of accumulating a substantial nest-egg in the shape of fighting funds, it is fairly obvious that the latter laudable ambition can only be achieved by the loyal stay-at-home, pay-on-the-dot member. In a small Association such as ours, with heavy "overheads," and a definitely dwindled membership, the question of a nest-egg therefore provides food for much thought. Whilst I desire to give every credit to our E.C. for a most generous gesture—at the expense of paying members—I feel that an initial mistake has been made in not taking this question to ballot, and secondly, in not recognising the elementary difference between big benevolence and bad business.

Further, I am certain that many of our colleagues, now with the Forces, recognising that they are serving under most favoured terms, resent the suggestion that the burden of keeping the P.S.A. flag flying, should devolve entirely on an overburdened and financially harassed membership. Many, I know, would have welcomed the opportunity to continue to have contributed to what is, after all, their own interests and welfare. In not being given this opportunity they must realise that this is stretching the home-based members' loyalty to the extreme. It has been said that financial strength is not dependent on membership, but with this view I cannot agree. The former is insoluble from the latter, and at this time, when we are attempting to set our house in order, I feel the time has come when a clear-cut statement on the strength of the P.S.A. should be made. What exactly is the number of fully paid members of the P.O. and A.P.O. Grades, exclusive of those serving with the Forces? To those who have the future of the Association at heart, the figures, I am sure, would make interesting reading.

Whilst ruminating over the above points, perhaps some of our Councillors may obtain information as to why the "Customs Journal" is issued to all Waterguard Officers, irrespective as to whether they are members of the P.S.A. or not. I am well aware the E.C. are committed to a guaranteed circulation, but the issue to non-members is a direct contravention of the P.S.A. Constitution, besides being grossly unfair to those whose loyalty is meantime being put to severe strain.

In conclusion, perhaps the points raised by me, on second thoughts, appear trivial, particularly in serious times like the present, but there is no gainsaying the fact that members are entitled to demand that the affairs of our Association should be put on a sound business footing. No representative body can exist on a policy of illusory membership and an empty exchequer—that way lies disaster.

G. H. WALES, A.P.O.,
Aberdeen.

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Dear Mr. Editor,

Hull has probably provided as many officers for Detached Duty as most other ports, and a fair sprinkling of men to H.M. Forces, too. As Detached Duty officers stationed in a remote outport, we look month after month through the eagerly awaited "Journal" for news about our Hull colleagues, both "home and away," but, alas, in vain! We are not, we are sure, the only officers from Hull who would like to see some news about our former colleagues. How about it, Hull?

"SOME HULL-ITES."

1. Association Secretaries.—Set forth current policy in simple, direct language. Reports of Committees, etc., are, I fear, passed over. A summary in ordinary English should be given, going back to items which do not appear in current agendas, e.g., the intention of the Reorganisation Scheme to end the fast-growing-worse stagnation in the P.O. and A.P.O. grade. It should be possible to set down our policy, based on past decisions of the whole body, in a few lines.

2. District Secretaries.—Have meetings with live agendas. Study the Association's current policy in framing the latter, but leave plenty of time for new items from members. Do not overlook old issues, e.g., the excessive C.P.O. representation on the Council.

3. District Organisers.—Collect subs. Let no one say, "I wasn't asked," and don't worry too much about arrears!

4. Staff Representatives: Take no "cases" up for chronic non-payers.

5. Small Port Officers.—Make an attempt to attend district meetings. See that the District Secretary lets you know about them. If you can't come, write. The movement for sleeve-decorations for A.P.O.s came from a small-port letter to the mother-port.

6. Chairmen.—Run your meetings properly. You're not there to air your own views, nor to let anyone indulge in pointless chin-wag. You must find the happy medium between this and a fair ventilation of views. Encourage the shy member to speak up.

7. All Members.—Attend meetings, and don't be shut up if you have anything to say. Don't be afraid because you feel you don't speak so well. Listen to broadcasts by leading politicians if you want confidence! On the other hand, don't suspect those who have trained themselves to be lucid. Know what you are voting for.

8. All.—Prepare resolutions for the next Conference. Meet in good time to consider resolutions from other districts. Pay particular attention to resolutions from the Executive.

9. All.—Send Councillors to the Conference who are able to do their job. If there's elections, vote, and vote for the right man. Vote for an unpopular man of ability and sincerity rather than a popular man of doubtful qualities. Give him some idea what you want him to do. On the other hand, don't send up a mere gramophone record.

10. PAY YOUR SUBS

SLIPPERY SAM.

IT'S WELL, MAYBE . . .

It's well, maybe, that I should do
That which I am ordered to;
Moreover, do it through and through
With pride, and carefully.
But what if men of empty bent
Set official precedent.
Can I write with full assent
"I am, Respectfully"?

It's well, maybe, that I should wait
And curtsy by promotion's gate,
Or even kneel and bless the fate
Which has commissioned me.
Yet could I from the future steal
Some prospect now; 'twould match the zeal
Which future years might well conceal
Deep drowned in lethargy.

It's well, maybe, that I should live
On smallish sums, and thereby give
My mind some task, and thriving, strive
To daunt adversity.
And yet 'tis now my soul is made,
Beyond the petty bounds of grade;
And stifed now, the fires fade
To ashen apathy.

J.K.

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Sir,

Uniform Rank Distinctions

So many letters have appeared in the Journal on this subject that it will be unnecessary to enumerate the reasons why this question should be settled decisively and the whole of the Association's efforts directed towards this end. It is incomprehensible why the Staff Side should have suggested and obtained agreement with the Official Side for the adjournment for seven months of this vital issue.

It is suggested that meetings be held in all districts to pass resolutions pressing for the immediate institution of a rank distinction. Further, should a full Council Meeting materialise distinction for the A.P.O., and the up-grading of the P.O. rank this year, then districts should see that their representatives are fully instructed to put forward their claim in no uncertain manner.

Seizure Rewards

The increase in the annual sum payable as seizure rewards is causing the authorities some concern. Such rewards have always been distasteful to the staff, and have savoured too much of "blood money" and left us open to the charge of a direct personal interest in decisions we are called upon to make. It is regrettable that the Official Side did not take advantage of the Staff Side's pre-war proposal to abolish them in favour of an allowance or a small addition to salary.

As things are, these rewards figure in the agreed payment for labour, and a reduction without an agreed alternative would entail a breach of contract. The Staff is entitled to ask whether the higher-paid grades are to be asked to make a similar sacrifice. If so, then the lower-paid grades will not be found wanting.

Since the war began, a more serious aspect of seizure rewards has arisen. This has occurred in the payment of rewards for revenue seizures and of no reward for seizures made under the Defence Regulations, resulting in an incentive—encouraged, apparently, by the "Powers that Be"—to concentrate on revenue protection to the detriment of National Security, etc.

In order to direct the activities of the department into a more balanced war effort, it is suggested—

1. That P.O.'s rewards be abolished and an allowance of £15 per annum be substituted. This would remove any possibility of bias in a P.O.'s decision,
2. That rewards be paid to A.P.O.s for all seizures, a substantial reduction in revenue seizure rewards being agreed to, so that the present aggregate of rewards be maintained. This would cause a more equal division of our activities and direct effort where it is the most vital in the present national emergency. It would also eliminate the complaint of officers engaged mainly on war-time duties that they do not receive a just proportion of the sum allotted to staff emoluments.

Co-operation

It is useless to hide the fact that co-operation between those bodies controlling shipping is much amiss. This sad state of affairs has arisen owing to the omission to invite members of the working staff to conferences, to the absence of details of the practical form of such co-operation, to the apparent lack of interest in the working of the scheme by superiors, and to the improper delegation or allowance of authority. This last point is particularly noticeable with the F.S.P., who have interpreted the word co-operation as exploitation.

The national emergency calls for an immediate inquiry into this urgent question.

CORRIGENDA.

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Sir,

I wish to endorse the previous correspondence on the subject of uniform clothing.

May I suggest that as Commissioned Officers we have our uniform cut and made to the standards laid down for such officers in the Royal Navy, the alterations from the present style being as follows:—

1. All four buttons to fasten and the regulation distance between buttons being observed (i.e., $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches vertically).

2. Slits at bottom of side seams (length of slits four inches).
3. Breast pocket and no flaps on side pockets.
4. Decorations on sleeve to be two rings and curl for P.O. Grade. One ring and curl for A.P.O. Grade.

The uniform Bridge Coat could be made in correct style, too. (Any Naval tailor would supply details).

I would like to point out that none of us would purchase a suit for which we had to give up coupons, which was not correct in style (and we do pay for our uniforms and hand in coupons as well).

I would also like to point out that in all cases where a Royal Crown is worn on a Cap Badge it is always on top, and I would like to suggest we readopt the old A.P.O.'s badge with crown, garter and royal cypher with a gold laurel wreath placed round it, in place of the present one (which, after all, is the rank badge of C.S.M. or W.O. II in the Army), and hardly the correct thing for commissioned officers).

To counteract the excuse of the increased cost of these suggestions, I would like to propose the giving up of our waistcoats (which no commissioned officer ever wears or buys), and I should imagine this would more than meet any increased cost.

I would like to add that if all these suggestions are carried out, we could not be mistaken any more for hotel porters, etc.—Yours, etc.,

SERVICE.

DISCHARGING QUAY

Cranes like a long line of sentries.
 At ease by a long line of ships
 Look out to a turbulent wharfage
 And down on the treasure of trips.
 With jibs like antennæ weaving,
 They coax the cargo to grips,
 And wave, triumphant, their treasure
 Like children with strange lucky dips.
 Then out to a dark gloomy entrance
 The bundles and cradles and skips
 Are stolen away from the sunshine,
 And empty, return to the ships.
 Billets and ingots and dunnage
 Are piled and trucked, and the quay
 A ribbon of skilful exertion
 Stretches down to the locks and the sea.
 Carboys of something quite deadly,
 And cases marked plainly as tea,
 And shells in smart little baskets
 And bombs in plump majesty.
 A tanker barge with hootings
 Comes nosing to the wall
 To give some lovely lady
 Long feeds of fuel oil.
 Engines playing echoes
 Shoutings in the holds;
 And one in voice profundo
 Spitting as he scolds.
 The quay like a great bargain counter
 Where traveller ships can display
 The goods they're pushing in Rio
 The latest lines from Bombay.
 Hides from far Argentina,
 Wool from fair Adelaide;
 Ores for smelting and making,
 And aeroplanes all ready made.
 The quay like the steps of a mansion
 Where traders can call with their ships
 And pile up their goods for approval
 And make campaigns of their trips.
 Here is the end of all journeys,
 Here the ship's mighty scope
 Leaves Man forlorn with his follies
 Yet lends his Liberty hope.
 Here the world as a garden
 Is laid at Man's little feet;
 For quays could build us our mansion
 But for fools still drunk in the street.

TROPWEN.

saving made simple . . .

save without trouble . . .

profit while you save . . .

Did you know that special facilities for simplified saving are now available to every Civil Servant? Did you know that, besides saving you trouble, these new savings schemes also allow you a more immediate profit on your savings?

It goes without saying that the vital necessity of reducing personal spending and of saving "to the limit" is acutely recognised by every Civil Servant. But perhaps you have not yet discovered the particular "Scheme" which is ideally suited to your special needs. If not, it will be well worth your while to investigate these schemes, then go "all out" for the one which suits you best.

deductions-from-pay schemes

These Schemes are open both to established and temporary Civil Servants. You can become a participant in a "Cycle Scheme," which enables you to acquire National Savings Certificates or 3% Defence Bonds by pre-arranged weekly or monthly deductions from your pay. At the end of the Cycle you receive your Certificates or Bonds... but they have already been bearing interest since the middle of the Cycle period. In other words, you are being paid interest while your subscriptions are still accumulating.

schemes that cover "odd sums"

Sometimes you may have "a bit extra" from bonus or overtime to spare for savings, apart from your regular contribution. Again, some of you may

prefer to contribute entirely through your Department Group rather than join in a "cycle." For such cases, there are the simple methods of saving by means of 6d or 2/6d Stamps, or by making deposits, via the Group, in the Post Office or Trustee Savings Banks. All savings made through Groups remain under your own control so that no difficulties arise if you should be transferred.

if you need advice . . .

In every department there is a National Savings Committee's Liaison Officer. Consult him about the best way to meet your individual requirements. If your Department has not yet got its own Group in operation, ask the Liaison Officer to get one. Then you can enjoy the latest facilities for saving with simplicity—and with greater profit to yourself and your country.

save today . . . and profit for the future

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL SAVINGS COMMITTEE